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No. 86

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 12 noon.

## House of Representatives

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Alabama).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 22, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARRY MOORE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the ambulances, the emergency medical technicians, and the paramedics that we all rely on each and every day have come a long way since Ernest Hemingway and the first casualty transports of World War I.

From highway crashes to heart attacks and falls, we call on our EMTs to be the first medical care a patient receives, regardless of their circumstance.

During National Emergency Medical Services Week, we recognize and thank the men and women willing to respond at a moment's notice. More and more, we rely on these first responders to address significant instances, instances like a diabetic coma, a fractured limb, or a patient who has overdosed.

We in Congress owe it to our EMTs and the communities that they serve to ensure that they have the tools and resources necessary to arrive quickly and to treat these patients.

So often, we forget the toll that these jobs take on first responders and their families. This week, let's remain grateful for the care and the professionalism of our frontline healthcare workers and pledge to support the EMTs and paramedics—volunteers and paid alike—who support our communities and, ultimately, care for our families.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN INGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Brunswick County Sheriff John Ingram, who recently retired from his long and distinguished tenure in law enforcement.

A proud native of Brunswick County, Sheriff Ingram dedicated his life to his community by joining the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department in 1991. Starting as a patrol deputy, he quickly rose through the ranks and served in many different capacities, including in the warrant and detective divisions, and then became lieutenant in the narcotics division and commander of the department's SWAT team.

Mr. Ingram later joined the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, where he was named chief deputy before returning to Brunswick County in the same role. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed Brunswick County Sheriff, earning reelection to the post in each and every election since.

During his tenure leading the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, he expanded the department to accommodate the fastest growing county in the State. He increased recruitment efforts and brought in additional 911 telecommunicators and detention officers to increase safety.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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He also offered a variety of community programs to further the sheriff's office mission to enhance public safety and education and promote community-based relationships between law enforcement and the public, including his support for establishing drug courts where those battling addiction could be better treated and not only treated but provided with a path to recovery.

To facilitate these missions, he created the Sheriff's Citizens' Academy along with the Sheriff's Volunteer Program. He also launched the Anchor Initiative Program in 2018 to help those suffering from addiction start their recovery, providing hope for those suffering from their addictions and breaking the typical continual cycle of continued drug use and crime.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Ingram has been recognized for his leadership on all these fronts. He was elected to the board of directors for the National Sheriffs' Association and served as president of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association from 2019 to 2020.

Most recently, he was awarded the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, a recognition considered North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

It is an honor to recognize a friend who is a no-nonsense individual with such a sense of duty, integrity, and distinguished service to the people of Brunswick County.

On behalf of the citizens of North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District, I congratulate and extend my sincere gratitude to Sheriff Ingram for his extraordinary service and commitment to protecting our communities.

May God continue to bless him, his family, and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. I am proud to call him my friend.

#### RECOGNIZING SSAB STEEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SSAB Steel for taking a big step toward a more sustainable future with SSAB Zero steel.

SSAB is the largest producer and supplier of steel plate in North America, and their facility in Muscatine, Iowa, in my district, is the first in the world to produce steel with zero emissions from the source without any credits or offsets.

SSAB Zero steel is made using recycled steel—almost all steel in America is almost 98 percent recycled—and it is produced with biogas and renewable electricity. The rollout of zero-emission steel will continue through 2023 with the goal of having a wide range of products available to meet the increasing demand for environmentally friendly alternatives.

SSAB Zero is an important step in their efforts to lead the steel industry

to a decarbonized future by creating an emission-free value chain for their customers.

We are proud to have such an innovative company pursuing climate-neutral solutions in Iowa and wish them the very best as they continue to lead the industry to a cleaner, healthier future.

#### PBMS ABUSING PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the HELP Copays Act.

Too many patients are seeing large copays at the pharmacy counter because of pharmacy benefit manager, or PBM, accumulator programs. PBMs are the middlemen in the distribution chain between drug manufacturers and pharmacies and were originally designed to help negotiate with manufacturers to lower costs for patients.

Unfortunately, we are seeing patient assistance programs being abused by PBMs. Patients often receive drug coupons from manufacturers for high-cost medicines to reduce their out-of-pocket spending. However, PBMs, who are also the insurer in many cases, do not allow the coupon to apply toward the patient's deductible.

This is not the proper role of insurance. Health benefits should be serving the patients, not their shareholders at the expense of patients.

The HELP Copays Act would put an end to these abusive practices and improve patient access and affordability by requiring insurance plans to apply patient assistance toward their copay.

There simply can't be a discussion on lowering healthcare costs for patients without addressing the role of middlemen. Banning the use of copay accumulators is a readymade policy to do just that.

#### POLYCRISIS HURTS SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Chamber for 5 minutes and to talk about what political scientists are calling a polycrisis.

A polycrisis is multiple events that have happened globally that have an enormous impact not only on the world but here. I am going to focus on just three of them right now: the pandemic that we are currently going through, Mr. Speaker, which has been extraordinary, as well as the supply chain issues that have happened; a global pandemic creating global supply chain issues, which led to ensuing global inflation; and in the midst of that, the Ukraine war, which has become a global war, again, impacting supply chain and other issues.

Who in the United States of America has this impacted the most? In our country, this pandemic has impacted the elderly. Of the 1.2 million people who have passed away, over 850,000 were over the age of 65. With regard to

inflation, the group that is hurt most by inflation are people on fixed incomes, and that would be close to 70 million Social Security recipients here in this Nation.

We have a crisis in this country: a pension crisis and a crisis that Congress has neglected for more than 52 years.

1971 was the last time that Congress did anything to enhance Social Security benefits. A gallon of milk was 72 cents at that time. A lot has changed since 1971, but what hasn't changed is Congress' recalcitrance to address the needs of our seniors.

Social Security is the number one antipoverty program for seniors and the number one antipoverty program for children, yet there are 5 million Americans currently who get below-poverty-level checks from the Federal Government after having paid all of their lives into the system.

The only reason that is so is because Congress hasn't acted. It is long overdue for Congress to act. We have legislation that we will be introducing in the Ways and Means Committee that will enhance Social Security with across-the-board increases for everyone to lift people out of poverty and provide every single district with economic recovery.

Why? It is because, on average, there are 145,000 people per congressional district who are on Social Security, and that money is spent right back in that congressional district. People are not buying back stock options with their Social Security checks. They are spending it at the grocery store. They are spending it on rent. They are spending it on prescription drugs. That is what is needed.

It is long overdue for Congress to act. It is not simply a question of protecting or saving Social Security. It is doing something to end this crisis in the midst of the worst pandemic, in the midst of inflation, and in the midst of a supply chain issue to make sure that our elderly and our people are being protected.

#### PREPARING FOR TYPHOON MAWAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday afternoon, Guam, a territory of the United States, my district, and my home, will be moving to Condition of Readiness 1 as Typhoon Mawar makes its way to the Marianas region.

On its current track, the system is expected to bring tropical-storm-force winds as early as Tuesday afternoon, with the possibility of typhoon-force winds of 81 to 110 miles per hour by Wednesday morning, along with gusts projected to reach 100 to 120 miles per hour. This, along with heavy rainfall, certainly places Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in a serious predicament, with a major natural disaster at our doorstep.

While our community is resilient and has overcome such perils of Mother Nature many times in the past, when it comes to a typhoon of this magnitude, a direct impact over any of the islands will sadly lead to severe damage of homes, businesses, crops, and livelihoods, and will certainly lead us to a long road toward recovery.

Within these sacred Halls, I humbly ask my colleagues to pray for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and that we can dodge this massive bullet called Typhoon Mawar.

God Almighty, please protect our community and our people.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE PHILIPPINES 125TH  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 2023, the Philippines will be celebrating the very day in 1898 when the Philippines declared its independence from Spain. They will, in essence, commemorate 125 years of independence.

While it still took nearly another half decade for the Treaty of Manila to be signed to secure its full independence from the United States, it is still recognized as a historic transition to allow the country to preserve the very culture, language, and traditions that we appreciate today.

The proud relationship between the Philippines and Guam has been prosperous over the decades. A good percentage of our island's population either relocated from the Philippines or have roots tied back to the Philippines.

Due to Spanish influence, there are many similarities with our cultures, food, traditions, and language. Many of the surnames are also similar.

Our island has developed greater ties with the Philippines, which includes medical tourism for islanders to seek medical care in one of the many world-class facilities in the Philippines.

Our H2B labor solely arrives from the Philippines and has been remarkable for our economy. Flights to and from Manila are almost always full on any day of the week, to continue the enhancements of economic activity for both Guam and the Philippines.

While we recognize the independence of the Philippines, I take this time to honor and commend the Filipino Community of Guam. The FCG is a non-profit umbrella organization for 29 Filipino member-associations in Guam.

For 69 years, the FCG has continued to perpetuate and promote the culture of the Philippines on Guam and in the region. On June 3, they will be hosting the Philippine Independence Ball to highlight this historic occasion.

To president Patrick Lucas; vice presidents Romy Angel, Elizabeth Cena, and Loisa Cabuhat; secretaries Trixie Naholowaa-Torres and Nilfa Milan; treasurers Frank Huelar and Allan Camacho; auditor Linda Caasi; public relations officer Eileen Igcasenza; and to the board of trustees, on behalf of a thankful Nation and island and under these sacred Halls of de-

mocracy and history, I say thank you for your service to the community and for your efforts to keep the Filipino traditions thriving on Guam and the region.

Finally, to the Philippines, an ally of the United States, a friend of Guam, a country of hardworking people with pride and humbleness, Happy 125th Independence Day. "Philippine Independence Day," "Araw ng Kalayaan."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

We approach You, Lord our God, embraced in Your perfect love. In You do we find all we need. If we are afraid, we find courage. If we are despairing, we find hope. If ill, we find healing. We need only give up all that holds us back from receiving the grace and mercy You offer so freely to each of us.

May we not allow ourselves to be caught up in the fear of failure, the fear of the unknown, or the fear of our enemies, but by Your grace may we discover the courage to move forward where You would have us go.

May we not be inclined to look through the lens of despair, the despair of loss, the despair of rejection, the despair of death, but in Your mercy may we gird ourselves with the hope of Your presence in these shadows.

May we be willing and open to find the strength You provide to endure our suffering. Be we ill in mind, body, or spirit, may we find healing in Your peace, a peace that surpasses our understanding.

In You, O Lord, do we find all that we need this day: courage, hope, and healing. O holy one, may we not live our lives for desires that fall short of Your grace plan for us, but open our eyes to Your provision and recognize Your unfailing love for us.

In the name of the one who is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALLEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE  
MORADZADEH

(Mr. DUARTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Nicole Moradzadeh of Merced for her outstanding submission to the congressional art contest.

A junior at El Capitan High School, Nicole's artwork titled, "Give Thanks," highlights the hardworking families who are the foundation of California's Central Valley.

Nicole has beautifully expressed a unique perspective through her captivating work. The piece resonates deeply, inspiring appreciation for our working families. It serves as a reminder of the power of art to transcend boundaries and unite us all.

I chose this piece because it pays such excellent homage to the hardworking families that come to the Central Valley today to pursue the American Dream as so many generations have before from all over the world.

I am here in recognition of Nicole to express my commitment to make sure that the American Dream stays alive today for future generations as it has for all of those generations that have come before.

CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN,  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. TOKUDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Asian American, Native

Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

As a “fourth generation,” “yonsei,” Okinawan American, I believe this month is not only a chance to recognize our communities and their contributions, but it is also deeply personal to me as I think about the future we want to build for the next generation for our “children,” “keiki.”

AANHPIs are the fastest-growing population in the United States. We are a diverse diaspora. We are in every State across the country.

While we have made great progress, we have also seen an unprecedented rise in xenophobia, discrimination, and violence nationwide, but we will not let these forces of hate hold us down.

The stories of AANHPI people in our country are of grit, perseverance, and courage. They are stories that continue today through the tireless advocacy of those fighting to defend our civil rights and our democracy and through hard-working men and women keeping the American Dream alive.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE ON MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, next Monday, we will pause and pay tribute to the men and women who have died in service to our Nation.

It is a solemn time: one for deep reflection, patriotism, and gratitude. This upcoming Saturday, members of the High Country chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will be honoring deceased military veterans for Memorial Day by placing 600 flags on their gravesites.

Joining them will be members of The American Legion, ASU military staff, as well as local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Mr. Speaker, seeing members of the High Country come together in this fashion is heartwarming.

Let us never forget that we are blessed to live in the freest, greatest country in the world and that the selfless sacrifices made by those who have served should always be revered and recognized.

#### RECOGNIZING HUDSON COUNTY SHERIFF FRANK SCHILLARI

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great public servant, a law enforcement professional, a veteran of the United States Navy, and a dear friend, Hudson County Sheriff Frank X. Schillari.

Sheriff Schillari will be honored tomorrow in New Jersey for his over 25

years of service, 13 of which he has served as our county's highest ranking law enforcement professional.

Throughout that time, Sheriff Schillari has garnered respect from all corners for his devotion to protecting the residents of Hudson County and for ensuring our county roads, parks, and government facilities are safe for all to use.

His accomplishments have included improved community policing, the modernization of the sheriff's office, increased patrols of our county parks and roads, and building up the county's crash investigation unit.

In the last 25 years, Sheriff Schillari has embodied the best of law enforcement: fairness, respect, and devotion to his county, State, and country.

All the while, he has been a caring father to his children and a husband to his wonderful wife of 50 years, Mrs. Schillari, an incredible individual in her own right.

Today, on behalf of our county, I thank him and congratulate him on being honored by those who he has so selflessly served.

#### AMERICANS RULED BY BUREAUCRATS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, our government was founded on the principle of rule by the people's elected Representatives, indeed, a Republic.

The principle guided our Nation for many years and allowed the United States to become first among nations. Sadly, the uncontrolled growth of the Federal bureaucracy has usurped our constitutional foundation.

Instead of rule by elected Representatives, Americans are mostly ruled by bureaucrats. Federal bureaucrats and agencies, with the aid of activist judges, have successfully subverted many of our freedoms and the God-given rights of Americans found in the Constitution.

Almost every bill in the Bill of Rights has been successfully curtailed or subordinated to the wishes and desires of unelected, faceless bureaucrats.

Our Founders did not intend for the citizens of the Nation to be ruled by rubber-stamped decrees from agencies like the EPA or the ATF.

To add insult to injury, although we do have a mix of good people that are there, they are often outstripped by those that don't seem to care about what real people deal with. Their decrees often make no sense and do nothing more than make a headache for people trying to do basic, everyday things.

The Endangered Species Act, I remind you, does not trump the Bill of Rights or the U.S. Constitution. We need to take our powers back.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 18, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 18, 2023, at 4:02 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 18.

Appointment:

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. COURTNEY, Connecticut

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9455(a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Mr. DAVIS, North Carolina

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4003(e) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee:

Dr. Jim Jirjis, Nashville, Tennessee

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 8468(a), and the order of the House of

January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Maryland

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

MAY 18, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 9803(d)(1)(C) and (E) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Pub. L. 117-263), I am pleased to appoint the following Member to the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State:

The Honorable Mike Quigley of Illinois.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1604

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EZELL) at 4 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### PREVENTING THE FINANCING OF ILLEGAL SYNTHETIC DRUGS ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1076) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1076

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, over 107,000 people in the United States died from drug overdoses or drug poisonings in the 12-month period ending January 2022, with 67 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

(2) According to the United National Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its “Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021-2025”, the number of synthetic drugs, also called New Psychoactive Substances, has increased 631 percent since 2009, with traffickers introducing an average of 80 new substances to the illicit drug market each year from 2009-2019.

(3) In October 2022, F. Michael McDaniel, director of the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HITDA) program testified in Congress that one kilogram of fentanyl can produce one million counterfeit pills containing one milligram of fentanyl, saying, “Currently in Houston, Texas, you can buy a kilogram of fentanyl for an average price of \$25,000 to \$30,000. This same kilogram of fentanyl in Culiacán (Mexico) could be purchased at an average price of \$13,500. Currently, the price of a fentanyl pill in Houston ranges from \$6 to \$65. Therefore, an illicit investment of \$30,000 or less could result in a return of \$6 to \$32.5 million.”.

(4) According to Celina B. Realuyo, Adjunct Professor, The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, in March 2022 Congressional testimony, “Financing is essential to support and sustain the command and control, personnel, arms, communications, logistics and operations of organized crime groups. For this reason, following the money trail and depriving criminals of illicit financial flows can disrupt and disable these networks.”.

#### SEC. 3. GAO STUDY ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRAFFICKING.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study on illicit financing in connection with the trafficking of synthetic drugs, including fentanyl and methamphetamine, fentanyl- and methamphetamine-related substances, Captagon, and fentanyl and methamphetamine precursors, including—

(1) the business of the trafficking of synthetic drugs and related illicit finance, such as the participation of transnational criminal organizations and terror syndicates and their notable trafficking corridors, including source and transit countries;

(2) the business models used by these transnational criminal organizations, including U.S. domestic and foreign activities for precursor purchase or production, movement along the supply chain, manufacture of the completed product, marketing, distribution, sales, and return of proceeds;

(3) the overlap of the business model of human trafficking and the trafficking of synthetic drugs and related illicit finance;

(4) the use of online illicit drug markets and the use of social media for the marketing, sale, and payment for synthetic drugs;

(5) financial methods used by such transnational criminal organizations, including—

- (A) payment;
- (B) money laundering; and
- (C) repatriation of proceeds;

(6) the use of social media applications like Snap Chat, Discord, and Facebook and payment applications like CashApp to facilitate

financial transactions for synthetic drug trafficking, especially among young people; and

(7) U.S. Government activities to combat illicit finance related to the trafficking of synthetic drugs, including—

(A) interagency collaboration, including personnel detailed to other agencies to support the effort to combat synthetic drugs trafficking and related illicit finance;

(B) intergovernmental collaboration;

(C) intersectoral collaboration with the private sector, including the business and non-governmental communities; and

(D) identified gaps or resource deficiencies in combating the trafficking of synthetic drugs and related illicit finance in the coordination and collaboration activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. PETTERSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1076, the Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act.

As we are all painfully aware, fentanyl is a poison that is afflicting every community across America. This poison is a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Just 2 milligrams, equal to 10 to 15 grains of table salt, is enough to be lethal.

That is why I am grateful that Members like Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ have hit the ground running on commonsense legislation like H.R. 1076 to sever the lifeblood that keeps the fentanyl business model going, which is its financing.

As we heard in the Financial Services Committee hearing titled, “Follow the Money,” “Financing is essential to support and sustain the command and control, personnel, arms, communications, logistics, and operations of organized crime groups. For this reason, following the money trail and depriving criminals of illicit financial flows can disrupt and disable these networks.”

I recognize there are many challenges to attacking the fentanyl crisis, including our unsecured border, but from a Financial Services Committee perspective, we can only address what

is in our jurisdiction, and that is its financing.

Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ's study will help inform Congress on the next best step to disrupt and dismantle synthetic drug trafficking and its financing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1076, the Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act sponsored by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), a bill that I am pleased to cosponsor and co-lead.

Thanks to collaboration on both sides of the aisle, this bill offers a well-written study focused on the financing and proceeds of the illicit synthetic drug trade that is victimizing communities across the country. By following the money behind the multibillion-dollar drug trade, we are able to understand the traffickers' operations and improve our ability to disrupt their activities.

The effects of this trafficking have been staggering. Deaths involving synthetic opioids, such as illicit fentanyl and methamphetamine, increased by 22 percent in 2021, resulting in the deaths of more than 100,000 of our family members and neighbors. In 2022, there were also nearly 200,000 nonfatal opioid overdoses in the U.S. In 2021, overdose death rates increased 44 percent for Black people and 39 percent for American Indian and Alaska Natives, showing troubling trends and widening disparities among population groups.

Combating the opioid epidemic is one of the reasons why I ran for Congress. Like too many Americans, my family has been impacted by the opioid crisis. My mom's addiction began with the overprescription of opioids, which led to heroin and ultimately fentanyl when it started to take over the drug supply chain in 2016. Unfortunately, my mom's story is not unique in Jefferson County, in Colorado, or in this country.

The opioid epidemic is now more lethal than ever as we continue to see drugs become more and more potent and easier to traffic. It is going to take an all-hands-on-deck approach to stop the flow of fentanyl and other illicit synthetic opioids in this country. Ensuring that we understand the financial networks of drug trafficking organizations is a critical tool that we need to protect American lives.

This bill will not solve all the issues related to the opioid crisis. We need to do more to increase access to substance use disorder treatment and recovery services, and we need to do more to help support the workforce shortages. We need to crack down on social media companies that are permitting the sale of illegal drugs to young Americans, and we need to ensure that the financial system has the tools to quickly

identify bad actors and break up their drug trafficking rings.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I advocate for leveraging every financial tool at our disposal to pursue the traffickers of illicit fentanyl and other drugs. In this role, I also advocate for every individual family and community that has suffered or will suffer from misguided antidrug policies' physical, social, and economic damage to have the support that they need.

Thus, I urge my fellow Members to vote for this needed trafficking study bill, but I also urge them to consider that we must take the time to learn the lessons of past epidemics and take further steps to eliminate harmful and counterproductive policies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), the sponsor of this bill, a new and dynamic member of our committee.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding and for his broader leadership of the Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions.

Mr. Speaker, according to the CDC, over 107,000 Americans died from drug overdoses or drug poisonings in the 12-month period ending January 2022. Sixty-seven percent of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl, which is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

Last year, Hidalgo County, which sits in my district, made news with massive fentanyl seizures at the U.S.-Mexico border. These include \$1.5 million in January 2022 and \$330,000 in June. These numbers are staggering. According to law enforcement, an illicit investment of \$30,000 or less could yield \$6 to \$32 million.

To end this crisis, we must tackle the financing. As the adage goes, "Follow the money." This money fuels the operations of the cartels that are poisoning our families.

My bill, the Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act, will help law enforcement pinpoint the business model of the traffickers, how they move and hide their profits, and what the U.S. can do to stop fentanyl money laundering.

To end this carnage that is taking so many lives in south Texas and all across America, we must track down the funds that fuel it.

□ 1615

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time, and I thank my colleagues on the other

side of the aisle for their bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act, H.R. 1076.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee of National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, our jurisdiction tends to focus abroad, but make no mistake, the epidemic of synthetic drug overdoses impacts each and every congressional district and every community throughout our country. For example, Ohio ranks third in the overall number of drug overdose deaths, which we are not proud of.

According to the most recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 107,000 people in the United States have died from drug overdoses or drug poisoning in the past 12 months.

Mr. Speaker, 5,000 of those individuals were right there in my district.

Let me also share, as my colleague and our chair of the committee has stated to us, under the bill, the GAO would examine these illicit financial flows from and to foreign nations, including China, and will review the business of the trafficking of synthetic drugs and related illicit finance, such as participation in transnational criminal organizations and behaviors.

If we are going to stop the flow of illicit drugs like fentanyl and meth and the tragic loss of lives they bring with them, then we need to know more about the who, the where, and the how of the illegal trafficking trade.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am honored to support what I call a common-sense, bipartisan piece of legislation. Again, I thank the chair, our ranking member, the bill's sponsors, and, certainly, our Financial Services Committee, and I urge my colleagues to join in support.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DE LA CRUZ for her collaboration on this bill. Together, we can better understand the financing of drug trafficking and how the traffickers move and hide their proceeds. Doing so will help Congress and other policymakers to better disrupt their operations, protecting innocent Americans from the deadly harm that they cause in communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I think the bill's sponsor, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and cosponsor Mrs. BEATTY, have both articulated very well the need for this bill. It is a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues' support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1076, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## CHINA FINANCIAL THREAT MITIGATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1156) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1156

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2023”.

### SEC. 2. CHINA FINANCIAL THREAT MITIGATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Secretary of State, shall conduct a study and issue a report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China that includes—

(1) an assessment of the effects of reforms to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China on the United States and global financial systems;

(2) a description of the policies the United States Government is adopting to protect the interests of the United States while the financial sector of the People's Republic of China undergoes such reforms;

(3) a description and analysis of any risks to the financial stability of the United States and the global economy emanating from the People's Republic of China; and

(4) recommendations for additional actions the United States Government, including United States representatives at relevant international organizations, should take to strengthen international cooperation to monitor and mitigate such financial stability risks and protect United States interests.

(b) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall transmit the report required under subsection (a) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act to the Committees on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Foreign Relations of the Senate, and to the United States representatives at relevant international organizations, as appropriate.

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be unclassified, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) PUBLICATION OF REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall publish the report required under subsection (a) (other than any classified annex) on the website of the Department of the Treasury not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. PETERSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1156, the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act. This is a measure that originated in the Committee on Financial Services, where it was first introduced by our former colleague, Anthony Gonzalez of Ohio. I am pleased to see his cosponsor, Ms. SPANBERGER, continue to champion the measure in this Congress.

The China Financial Threat Mitigation Act is based on the notion that China's financial system is so opaque that it may hide risks for the global economy of which we aren't aware. The bill requires the Treasury Secretary to study and report on these risks so we can take effective countermeasures.

As we all know, China has been cracking down on Western firms and executives due to fears that the private sector's information gathering and due diligence efforts pose a threat to the Chinese Communist Party. The CCP clearly views transparency as inconsistent with its self-interest. This should alarm us all.

Due to the state-owned nature of many Chinese financial institutions, there are already fewer market signals that can alert us to problems in time, and the central government may be on the hook for liabilities of unknown scope.

The Financial Stability Oversight Council has touched on the possibility of risks in the country, including those arising from China's housing sector, but these have been broad-brush efforts. We need to dig deeper, and that is what the reporting in this legislation will require.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1156, the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2023, sponsored by Representative SPANBERGER of Virginia.

It is crucial that we closely monitor any risk to our financial system and economy that may arise from the financial sector and economy of the People's Republic of China.

Our financial regulators have already raised some concerns about such risks. For example, the Financial Stability Oversight Council highlighted in their 2022 report that “difficulties in the real estate sector could cause strains across China's financial system, including at banks, nonbanks, corporate bond markets, and local government finances.”

However, further analysis is needed, as China's size and interconnectedness with the global economy may pose risks to the United States if those kinds of risks spill over.

H.R. 1156 would require a comprehensive report by our Treasury Department looking at these different types of financial risks, in consultation with relevant agencies, to better inform Congress and provide actionable recommendations to our representatives at various international bodies, such as the Financial Stability Board, in order to mitigate these risks.

Ranking Member WATERS was pleased to work with Chair MCHENRY last Congress to advance this bipartisan bill through the House. I join her in hoping that we can pass this bill again with the support of the Senate so this work can begin quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), our baseball coach who has distinguished himself not only here in Congress but also on the baseball field.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for that great introduction.

Mr. Speaker, China is attempting to weaken our country in any way possible. The interference and aggression coming from the Chinese Communist Party pose a significant threat to our families, businesses, and country. The CCP's track record of abusing our financial system is jeopardizing our national and economic security.

H.R. 1156, the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act, requires the Department of the Treasury to report on the risks coming from the Chinese financial sector, along with recommendations on strengthening international cooperation to monitor and mitigate these risks.

Our top priority should always be to protect our Western values and promote the greatest country in the world and the interests of the United States.

My bill is a critical step in holding the CCP accountable for their continued abuse of the financial sector.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation. In God We Trust.



Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act, or H.R. 1156.

Certainly, I agree with my colleague and friends across the aisle that we need to dig deeper. We understand that, yes, China is trying to weaken our country. Because of its size and deep connection to the global economy, the People's Republic of China represents a potential threat to our economy and our financial system.

We must have a clear picture of the systemic risks we face so we can respond appropriately to safeguard our economic interests and mitigate these threats.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill will require the Treasury Department to study and issue a report that analyzes risks to the United States' financial stability and the global economy stemming from China.

I thank my colleague, the vice chair of this subcommittee, for participating today, along with our Republican colleagues.

As the ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, I am very happy to work across the aisle to address the issues of competitiveness with China.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right thing to do, and I urge all Members to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I don't think I need to remind my colleagues that this legislation was brought three times in the last Congress. I certainly thank then-Congressman Gonzalez from Ohio, who sponsored this legislation.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I commend Representative SPANBERGER for her leadership on these important issues and her work in drafting this bipartisan bill.

I also thank Chair MCHENRY and Representative WILLIAMS of Texas on the other side of the aisle for working with us Democrats on this important legislation.

This bipartisan work resulted in a vote of 40-0 on this bill during a Financial Services Committee markup earlier this year.

I, again, urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the sponsors of the bill, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. SPANBERGER for their hard work on this good piece of legislation. I think it is something that is very important.

They have already expressed the need for it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1156, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### KOREAN AMERICAN VIETNAM ALLIES LONG OVERDUE FOR RELIEF ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 366) to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 366

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue for Relief Act" or the "Korean American VALOR Act".

#### SEC. 2. PROVISION OF CERTAIN BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

Section 109 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d)(1) Any person described in paragraph (2) is eligible for the benefits specified in subsection (a) to the same extent and under the same conditions (including with respect to applicable reciprocity requirements) as a discharged member of the armed forces of a government specified in such subsection who is eligible for such benefits under such subsection.

"(2) A person described in this paragraph is a person whom the Secretary determines served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea at any time during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, or such other period as determined appropriate by the Secretary for purposes of this subsection."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5

legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 366.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Ranking Member TAKANO's bill, H.R. 366, the Korean American VALOR Act.

This bill would allow Korean veterans who served during the Vietnam war and later became American citizens to be eligible for VA healthcare. VA has been providing healthcare services to ally veterans through government agreements since World War I. These Korean-American veterans deserve the same opportunity.

Korean-American veterans share similar needs with the veterans they served alongside with in Vietnam. They suffer from PTSD and Agent Orange exposure, among other injuries and illnesses. These veterans have earned access to proper care through the VA. Ranking Member TAKANO's bill will do exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the vitally important alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. As such, this bill is a fitting tribute to thank the Korean-American veterans for their service. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 366.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 366, the Korean American VALOR Act. I am proud to have sponsored this legislation which will provide eligibility for VA healthcare to veterans who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea, as allies of the United States during the Vietnam war, who have since become naturalized American citizens.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean-American alliance. Last month, during his visit to Washington, D.C., President Yoon Suk Yeol addressed a joint session of Congress and reflected on how our alliance has served to safeguard freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Following the Korean war, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Mutual Defense Treaty on October 1, 1953. It has been called an "alliance forged in blood." In part, out of gratitude for the service and sacrifices made by Americans during the Korean war, the Republic of Korea has aided the United States in every war since the Vietnam war.

Between 1965 and 1973, South Korea sent more than 320,000 troops to fight alongside U.S. servicemembers in Vietnam, the largest contingent of any U.S. ally. More than 5,000 South Korean troops died in the Vietnam war, and at least 11,000 were injured.

An estimated 2,800 veterans who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea during the Vietnam



war and later became U.S. citizens are living today. My legislation would provide some measure of long-overdue parity for Korean-American Vietnam war veterans who, up to this point, have never been eligible for VA healthcare services.

Under this bill, the United States and the Republic of Korea will establish a reciprocal agreement. Korea will reimburse the United States for healthcare services VA furnishes to these Korean-American veterans. In exchange, the United States will reimburse Korea for healthcare it provides to veterans of the United States Armed Forces residing in Korea.

Such an arrangement is not new. Since 1958, through its Allied Beneficiary Program, VA has had the authority to treat veterans who have served in the armed forces of nations that were allied with the United States during World War I and World War II. These veterans did not need to be United States citizens, and VA has the authority to treat veterans of any combat era.

Now, VA furnishes this care through reciprocal agreements which have been established with the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. In 1976, VA's Allied Beneficiary Program was extended to certain veterans who had served in the armed forces of Czechoslovakia or Poland during World War I or World War II who subsequently became U.S. citizens.

We recently observed the 50th anniversary of the date the last combat troops left Vietnam. It is far past time for our Nation to properly honor the service and sacrifice of South Koreans who served side by side with United States troops during the Vietnam war and have since become naturalized U.S. citizens. We must ensure they finally receive the same respect and consideration their counterparts from other allied nations have received for generations.

The needs of Korean-American veterans of the Vietnam war are no different from those of U.S.-born veterans. From Agent Orange exposure, to coping with complex injuries and mental illnesses, these veterans deserve the specialized care and services that only VA can provide. Many of them are entering their final years and should not have to wait any longer for this care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 366, the Korean American VALOR Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for yielding.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 366, the Korean American VALOR Act. I thank Ranking Member TAKANO for his leadership on this very important issue.

During his joint address to Congress, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol

highlighted that during the Korean war, "Korean and American soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder and fought bravely."

However, the Korean war was not the last time Korean soldiers fought alongside American troops. They fought side by side in the Vietnam war, sharing the same physical and mental scars from that conflict.

Many of these Korean troops eventually immigrated to the United States and became proud naturalized American citizens. I personally know several of these individuals, and I am eternally grateful for their service.

Unfortunately, because the United States does not currently have a reciprocal veterans' healthcare agreement with the Republic of Korea, these Korean Americans cannot access veterans' healthcare benefits. The Korean American VALOR Act will create a pathway for an agreement to be reached and for these veterans to receive access to VA healthcare. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from my home State of California. I am very confident this bill will become law, but we will need to make sure that we work together in a bipartisan way to make sure the reciprocal agreement finally gets put into effect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend, who holds a seat on the House Budget Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee. She is indeed a staunch advocate for all our military servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman as well, Mr. TAKANO, for his vision and leadership and the years of service that he has given to the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We could not have a more stalwart champion for the veterans of America.

I thank my friends on the other side of the aisle and certainly, our colleague from California, who made a very important point. For this to work it has to be bipartisan. I hope we all will lean into the bipartisan efforts that need to be done to ensure not only its passage but its implementation.

As the ranking member indicated, I am on the Homeland Security Committee and the Budget Committee. Many times in those committees we see the concerns of domestic security. We also see the concerns of effectively utilizing all of our tools to ensure the proper budget for the people of the United States of America.

I cannot think, as we approach Memorial Day, and as we commemorate the accomplishments of Asian Americans in this great month of May, interacting with all of our community, that we would not find an appropriate time to honor those Korean-American soldiers who fought alongside of our fellow Vietnam soldiers in a battle that

was for democracy and protecting, if you will, the sense of equality, protecting the people of that era and of that war.

These soldiers bled. They rescued. They stood in front of our soldiers in terms of being comrades and fighting alongside. They saved lives. They lost lives.

I think that it is important to take note of those who served, who were members of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea and are considered veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, for purposes of the provision of healthcare by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For so long, I would listen to my Vietnam vets before we really answered their call on Agent Orange and saw them get very sick, saw many of them pass away, talking about Agent Orange over and over again, and it just seemed that it was not being heard.

Thank goodness we have done so many different things, such as the PACT Act, Agent Orange Act, all during my tenure as a Member of the United States Congress. We finally understood the truth of what the veterans were saying, and every time they speak, we should listen.

I was with veterans over the weekend, and I thank them everywhere I go. Every speech I make in my community, I ask veterans to rise, and I say thank you.

In this instance, title 38 is a special pay authority used to recruit and retain employees in certain healthcare occupations. It allows NIH to be competitive with other healthcare facilities.

However, this would expand the eligibility of these benefits, this Korean American VALOR Act, to veterans who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea during the Vietnam war and have since become naturalized citizens, almost 300,000, and how many others served.

So this legislation is clearly evidence of our relationship between the Republic of Korea and the friendship that we have established.

□ 1645

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As we heard from the South Korean President who spoke to a joint session just a few weeks ago, he talked about patriotism, democracy, and the unity of our nations. It is absolutely imperative that we support these Korean war vets who stood alongside of us and acknowledge that they served in Vietnam. They are now naturalized citizens, and they, in fact, have the evidence of the illness. It is so important to call them Korean American Vietnam veterans, naturalized citizens. We want them to get the honor of the Korean American VALOR Act. I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 366 the Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue for Relief (VALOR) Act.

H.R. 366 would amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Title 38 is a special pay authority used to recruit and retain employees in certain health care occupations. It allows NIH to be competitive with other health care facilities in the area.

The Korean American VALOR Act would expand the eligibility of these benefits to veterans who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea during the Vietnam War and have since become naturalized U.S. citizens.

This bipartisan legislation, when enacted into law, will provide veterans who served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and became U.S. citizens during or after such service, access to hospital and domiciliary care and medical services through the VA.

Approximately 3,000 Korean American Vietnam veterans are naturalized citizens—and the number of surviving veterans continues to dwindle.

As a result of their time in Vietnam, these veterans are falling ill from the diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins and are not receiving adequate care.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) fully supports the passage of the Korean American VALOR Act H.R. 366.

The Korean American VALOR Act will protect our veterans that served in Vietnam by providing them with the healthcare relief they deserve.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, we do need to remember that this is a perfect week to do this when Memorial Day is coming up, and we are honored to make sure that these veterans are recognized in the way they should be and that they do receive healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 366, the Korean American VALOR Act. Might I just add to the chairman's assertion that this is the perfect week to pass this bill. I have already mentioned the 70th anniversary of our historic alliance, but now as we in the Indo-Pacific must strengthen our alliance, I also want to add my congratulations to both the nations of Japan and the Republic of Korea for making great strides to improve their relationships and to afford us the opportunity in the trilateral alliance among the United States, Japan, and South Korea to become stronger allies.

This legislation, I believe, is part of the entire effort to become stronger allies with greater cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 366.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## VET-TEC AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1669) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the high technology pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1669

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023".*

### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) *HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—*Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### **"§ 3699C. High technology program**

*"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Secretary provides covered individuals with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that the Secretary determines provide training or skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry.*

*"(2) Not more than 6,000 covered individuals may participate in the program under this section in any fiscal year.*

*"(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary shall provide, to each covered individual who pursues a high technology program of education under this section, educational assistance in amounts equal to the amounts provided under section 3313(c)(1) of this title, including with respect to the housing stipend described in that section and in accordance with the treatment of programs that are distance learning and programs that are less than half-time.*

*"(2) Under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide such amounts of educational assistance to a covered individual for each of the following:*

*"(A) A high technology program of education.*

*"(B) A second such program if—*

*"(i) the second such program begins at least 18 months after the covered individual graduates from the first such program; and*

*"(ii) the covered individual uses educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title to pursue the second such program.*

*"(c) CONTRACTS.—(1) For purposes of carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into contracts with any number of qualified providers of high technology programs of education for the provision of such programs to covered individuals. Each such contract shall provide for the conditions under which the Secretary may terminate the contract with the provider and the procedures for providing for the graduation of students who were enrolled in a program provided by such provider in the case of such a termination.*

*"(2) A contract under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary shall pay to a provider—*

*"(A) upon the enrollment of a covered individual in the program, 25 percent of the cost of the tuition and other fees for the program of education for the individual;*

*"(B) upon graduation of the individual from the program, 25 percent of such cost; and*

*"(C) 50 percent of such cost upon—*

*"(i) the successful employment of the covered individual for a period—*

*"(I) of 180 days in the field of study of the program; and*

*"(II) that begins not later than 180 days following graduation of the covered individual from the program;*

*"(ii) the employment of the individual by the provider for a period of one year; or*

*"(iii) the enrollment of the individual in a program of education to continue education in such field of study.*

*"(3) For purposes of this section, a provider of a high technology program of education is qualified if—*

*"(A) the provider employs instructors whom the Secretary determines are experts in their respective fields in accordance with paragraph (5);*

*"(B) the provider has successfully provided the high technology program for at least one year;*

*"(C) the provider does not charge tuition and fees to a covered individual who receives assistance under this section to pursue such program that are higher than the tuition and fees charged by such provider to another individual; and*

*"(D) the provider meets the approval criteria developed by the Secretary under paragraph (4).*

*"(4)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe criteria for approving providers of a high technology program of education under this section.*

*"(B) In developing such criteria, the Secretary may consult with State approving agencies.*

*"(C) Such criteria are not required to meet the requirements of section 3672 of this title.*

*"(D) Such criteria shall include the job placement rate, in the field of study of a program of education, of covered individuals who complete such program of education.*

*"(5) The Secretary shall determine whether instructors are experts under paragraph (3)(A) based on evidence furnished to the Secretary by the provider regarding the ability of the instructors to—*

*"(A) identify professions in need of new employees to hire, tailor the programs to meet market needs, and identify the employers likely to hire graduates;*

*"(B) effectively teach the skills offered to covered individuals;*

*"(C) provide relevant industry experience in the fields of programs offered to incoming covered individuals; and*

*"(D) demonstrate relevant industry experience in such fields of programs.*

*"(6) In entering into contracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to a provider of a high technology program of education—*

*"(A) from which at least 70 percent of graduates find full-time employment in the field of study of the program during the 180-day period beginning on the date the student graduates from the program; or*

*"(B) that offers tuition reimbursement for any student who graduates from such a program and does not find employment described in subparagraph (A).*

*"(d) EFFECT ON OTHER ENTITLEMENT.—(1) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section has remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this section shall be charged at the rate of one month of such remaining entitlement for each such month of educational assistance under this section.*

“(2) The Secretary may not consider enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section to be assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695 of this title.

“(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall not approve the enrollment of any covered individual, not already enrolled, in any high technology programs of education under this section for any period during which the Secretary finds that more than 85 percent of the students enrolled in the program are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs under this title or under chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, except with respect to tuition, fees, or other charges that are paid under a payment plan at an educational institution that the Secretary determines has a history of offering payment plans that are completed not later than 180 days after the end of the applicable term, quarter, or semester.

“(2) The Secretary may waive a requirement of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, pursuant to regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, such waiver to be in the interest of the covered individual and the Federal Government. Not later than 30 days after the Secretary waives such a requirement, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such waiver.

“(3)(A)(i) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a process by which an educational institution may request a review of a determination that the educational institution does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1).

“(ii) The Secretary may consult with a State approving agency regarding such process or such a review.

“(iii) Not later than 180 days after the Secretary establishes or revises a process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such process.

“(B) An educational institution that requests a review under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall request the review not later than 30 days after the start of the term, quarter, or semester for which the determination described in subparagraph (A) applies; and

“(ii) may include any information that the educational institution believes the Department should have taken into account when making the determination, including with respect to any mitigating circumstances.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (i), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the operation of program under this section during the year covered by the report. Each such report shall include each of the following:

“(1) The number of covered individuals enrolled in the program, disaggregated by type of educational institution, during the year covered by the report.

“(2) The number of covered individuals who completed a high technology program of education under the program during the year covered by the report.

“(3) The average employment rate of covered individuals who completed such a program of education during such year, as of 180 days after the date of completion.

“(4) The average length of time between the completion of such a program of education and employment.

“(5) The total number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who, as of the date of the submission of the report, are employed in a position related to technology.

“(6) The average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education

under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology, in various geographic areas determined by the Secretary.

“(7) The average salary of all individuals employed in positions related to technology in the geographic areas determined under subparagraph (F), and the difference, if any, between such average salary and the average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology.

“(8) The number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who subsequently enrolled in a second program of education under the program.

“(g) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION; CONSULTATION.—(1) The Secretary shall develop practices to use to collect information about covered individuals and providers of high technology programs of education.

“(2) For the purpose of carrying out program under this section, the Secretary may consult with providers of high technology programs of education and may establish an advisory group made up of representatives of such providers, private employers in the technology field, and other relevant groups or entities, as the Secretary determines necessary.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means any of the following:

“(A) A veteran whom the Secretary determines—

“(i) served an aggregate of at least 36 months on active duty in the Armed Forces (including service on active duty in entry level and skill training) and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; and

“(ii) has not attained the age of 62.

“(B) A member of the Armed Forces that the Secretary determines will become a veteran described in subparagraph (A) fewer than 180 days after the date of such determination.

“(2) The term ‘high technology program of education’ means a program of education—

“(A) offered by a public or private educational institution;

“(B) if offered by an institution of higher learning, that is provided directly by such institution rather than by an entity other than such institution under a contract or other agreement;

“(C) that does not lead to a degree;

“(D) that has a term of not less than six and not more than 28 weeks; and

“(E) that provides instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.

“(i) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2028.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3699B the following new item:

“3699C. High technology program.”

(b) EFFECT ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (6); and

(2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following new subsection (h):

“(h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a pilot program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2023.”

(c) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 3680A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) Any independent study program except—

“(A) an independent study program (including such a program taken over open circuit television) that—

“(i) is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of

the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b);

“(ii) leads to—

“(I) a standard college degree;

“(II) a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning; or

“(III) a certificate that reflects graduation from a course of study offered by—

“(aa) an area career and technical education school (as defined in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; or

“(bb) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; and

“(iii) in the case of a program described in clause (ii)(III)—

“(I) provides training aligned with the requirements of employers in the State or local area where the program is located, which may include in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

“(II) provides a student, upon graduation from the program, with a recognized postsecondary credential that is recognized by employers in the relevant industry, which may include a credential recognized by industry or sector partnerships in the State or local area where the industry is located; and

“(III) meets such content and instructional standards as may be required to comply with the criteria under section 3676(c)(14) and (15) of this title; or

“(B) an online high technology program of education (as defined in subsection (h)(2) of section 3699C of this title)—

“(i) the provider of which has entered into a contract with the Secretary under subsection (c) of such section;

“(ii) that has been provided to covered individuals (as defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) under such contract for a period of at least five years;

“(iii) regarding which the Secretary has determined that the average employment rate of covered individuals who graduated from such program of education is 65 percent or higher for the year preceding such determination; and

“(iv) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (e) of such section.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(8) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the enrollment of a veteran in an online high technology program described in subsection (a)(4)(B).”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (c) shall take effect on October 1, 2023.

### SEC. 3. BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO DIE AT HOME WHILE IN RECEIPT OF HOSPICE CARE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2)(A) of section 2303 of title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in clause (ii)(III), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) a home or other setting at which the deceased veteran was, at the time of death, receiving hospice care pursuant to section 1717(a) of this title if such care was directly preceded by the Secretary furnishing to the veteran hospital care or nursing home care described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of clause (ii).”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of

the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 4. INCLUSION OF NON-DEGREE FLIGHT TRAINING IN CERTAIN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

Section 3101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by adding at the end the following: “A rehabilitation program may include a program that includes flight training and does not lead to a degree.”; and

(2) by redesignating the first paragraph (10) as paragraph (1).

**SEC. 5. SOLE LIABILITY FOR TRANSFERRED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE A SERVICE AGREEMENT.**

Subsection (i) of section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “In the event” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (2), in the event”; and

(B) by inserting “of this title” after “section 3685”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “SOLE LIABILITY”; and

(B) by striking “under paragraph (1)” and inserting “for which the individual shall be solely liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title”; and

(3) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Subparagraph (A) shall not apply” and inserting “Neither the individual nor the dependent shall be liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “of this title” after “section 3311(c)(4)”.

**SEC. 6. INCREASE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION IN REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Filipino Education Fairness Act”.

(b) **INCREASE.**—Section 3532 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as subsections (d) through (f), respectively.

**SEC. 7. PROVISION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD LETTERS USING ELECTRONIC MEANS.**

Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3698 the following new section (and conforming the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

**“§3698A. Provision of certificates of eligibility and award letters using electronic means**

“(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to an individual the following documents using electronic means:

“(1) A certificate of eligibility for the entitlement of the individual to covered educational assistance.

“(2) An award letter regarding the authorization of the individual to receive covered educational assistance.

“(b) **ELECTION TO OPT OUT.**—An individual may elect to receive the documents specified in subsection (a) by mail rather than through electronic means under subsection (a). An individual may revoke such an election at any time, by means prescribed by the Secretary.

“(c) **COVERED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—In this section, the term ‘covered educational assistance’ means educational assistance under chapter 30, 33, or 35, or section 3699C, of this title.”.

**SEC. 8. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “April 30, 2032”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1669, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Representative CISCOMANI's bill, H.R. 1669, as amended. The bill would enhance the fund, the VET-TEC pilot program at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VET-TEC pilot program was coauthored by Speaker MCCARTHY and Congressman RO KHANNA in the Forever GI Bill in 2017.

Now, this program provides post-9/11 GI Bill-style benefits to veterans so they can attend short-term training that leads to jobs in the information technology sector. The education and employment program has been a wildly successful program. It has helped thousands of veterans not only find a job, but a career and a promising future in the technology sector.

This program is an example of a government program that truly works for our veterans. VET-TEC has an 80 percent graduation rate, a 62 percent employment rate, and an average salary of \$65,000 a year. Veterans using this program are going into careers with the best tech companies in the world.

The reason this program works as well as it has, I think, is that the schools only receive the full amount of the tuition and fees when the student gets a job in the tech industry.

Now, this level of accountability is honestly something I think we should be looking at for other Federal Government programs. Thousands of veterans achieving the career of their dreams has proven to me that it is time to expand VET-TEC.

Now, Representative CISCOMANI's bill makes important changes to the pilot program to make it even stronger so that it can continue to help even more veterans find their American Dream. Improving VET-TEC program has the full support of the VA and many veteran service organizations.

Three weeks ago, VET-TEC providers told us that the program had run out of funds and they are no longer allowed to accept new students. Over 2,500 student veterans will miss out on the chance for a better career this year if Congress

is unable to fix this problem. It goes without saying, the time is short and the need to help our veterans continue to access this training is great.

Even with record-high inflation and soaring interest rates, because of the Biden administration, veterans using this program have shown that they can still achieve high-paying jobs.

Representative CISCOMANI's bill, as amended, also includes several other bipartisan bills, including General JACK BERGMAN's bill, H.R. 234, which would allow survivors of veterans to receive the burial allowance benefit if their loved one passes away at home while receiving VA Hospice care, rather than in a VA facility.

Representative ARRINGTON's bill, H.R. 1169, would also allow veterans to receive their GI Bill electronic notifications virtually.

Representative OBERNOLTE's bill, H.R. 746, would include nondegree pilot programs into the Veterans Readiness and Employment program.

Representative VAN ORDEN's bill, H.R. 1798, would protect the spouses of servicemembers from GI Bill debt.

Representative KIGGAN's bill, H.R. 1635, would eliminate a nearly 70-year-old rule that limits the GI Bill payments that survivors and dependents receive in the Philippines.

With the inclusion of these bills in H.R. 1669, we would make great improvements in how our veterans can use the GI Bill benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Student Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign War, The American Legion, the VET-TEC Working Group, and Disabled American Veterans for supporting the proposed legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1669, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023, as amended. In 2020, when our country experienced record unemployment, VET-TEC was a bright spot of veteran employment.

To date, nearly 5,000 veterans have found employment from the program at a salary of over \$65,000 a year.

Today, veterans are employed at record-high levels. The Biden economy has brought veteran unemployment to the lowest level ever on record. Let me say that again. The Biden economy has brought veteran unemployment to the lowest level ever on record.

The legislation before us adds 5 more years to the VET-TEC program, providing VA an additional \$337 million to get more veterans hired in the high-technology field.

This program was created by Speaker MCCARTHY in the Forever GI Bill, and I respect the fact that it is a big priority for the Speaker and my friend Chairman BOST. While I support the legislation, I wish to share my concern about moving a bill with such a large cost

when we have so many provisions awaiting action by this Congress. The \$413 million price tag of this bill dwarfs the costs of many of the bills we must pass to address veteran homelessness.

This is an expensive bill in a fiscally uncertain time. While we all appreciate veteran employment programs, veteran unemployment is the lowest ever on record. A VET-TEC extension is nice to have, but with veterans experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, there is action on those programs that we must have.

As ranking member of this committee, I have the responsibility of weighing priorities and choosing between worthy policies that help veterans. I know the chairman and his colleagues on our committee share my goal of ending veteran homelessness.

When we considered this legislation in our committee, I offered an amendment to this legislation to make permanent some basic authorities which lowered veteran homelessness by 11 percent during a public health emergency. This amendment cost only \$6 million in mandatory spending.

Last year, the chairman himself made it clear: "No veteran should be without a place to call home. I am glad that the most recent estimate showed fewer veterans living in homeless shelters last year. That is why we must continue our work to ensure that the rubber is meeting the road and every veteran has access to safe, stable housing and the help they need to thrive."

Chairman BOST is correct. The work must continue. We must continue the ongoing work, which has already helped so many veterans and can help so many more.

The reason given for not moving this bill was that it implicates the Toxic Exposure Fund, or TEF. I understand the chairman is concerned about how the Congressional Budget Office scores bills with TEF implications. I am concerned too, and I have spoken extensively on this.

However, there has yet to be a solution proposed for the TEF that does not undermine its purpose, which is to protect funding for toxic-exposed veterans and acknowledge this as a cost of war.

In light of this, I am asking that we come together and work on mutual priorities so that we can responsibly and equitably pass legislation using the limited offsets available to us.

I think the chairman believes, as do I, that providing basic needs for homeless veterans deserves to be on that priority list.

Therefore, I ask my colleague, the chairman, if he will commit to bringing Representative CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK's bill, H.R. 645, to the floor without delay.

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of a colloquy, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), and ask if he will commit to this.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, while I understand the concerns expressed by the

minority, I point out that the program has been a huge success in helping veterans gain meaningful employment.

We have been very successful in recent years in reducing veterans' unemployment, and now is not the time for us to take our foot off the gas. I believe a successful education program, such as this one, is one of the best ways to reduce veteran homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that the minority has had ample time and opportunity to express their concerns of legislation hearing on this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am reclaiming my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am getting to my answer.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I was waiting for the answer.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, they were also given a chance to submit markup at a full committee markup, and yet, the first time I have heard these concerns was late last week.

The bill, through regular order, as amended, was offered for the minority Representative, Mr. MCGARVEY, to reduce the length of time in the program. That amendment was accepted and included in the bill.

The length of the program was subject to bipartisan agreement. I recognize that the minority has valid concerns about spending and limited resources that we have worked with. The problem was made worse with the passage of the Toxic Exposure Fund, the PACT Act, that requires mandatory spending for many of the VA programs.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat my plea that my friends on the other side of the aisle join me in developing a resolution to the issue.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I reclaim my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to addressing the veterans homelessness.

□ 1700

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am reclaiming my time.

I simply ask the gentleman whether he will work with us to bring Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK's bill to the floor. That is the question that I will yield for an answer.

Will the gentleman work with us?

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I will address veterans homelessness, as I have always said I would. It is very concerning to me. We are currently working on a package to address the issue, but I am not going to pit one group of veterans against another. I would like my friends in the minority to work with me to develop legislation to address veteran homelessness in a bipartisan, fiscally responsible way over the next few months.

The answer is yes, we will work with you, but we have got to actually sit down and work together to figure out the problem of the expense and knowing how it is and where it is that we

make the investment that still balances. That is the answer that I will give to the gentleman.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time.

I am grateful that I hear some kernel that they will work with us in a bipartisan way. What does worry me is the gentleman mentioned over the next few months. I can maybe tolerate the next few months in terms of can we come to an agreement by the fall when the temperatures start to fall, but even the hot summers, in some parts of the country, would require us to work much more expeditiously.

These pandemic authorities that expanded our ability to help veterans who are homeless expired on May 11. For the last 11 days, VA and its community partners have operated with fewer authorities and less funding to help homeless veterans.

VA's ability to quickly bring a veteran in off the streets and get them the services they need to put them on their way to stable, permanent housing has been greatly diminished.

Prior to the pandemic, we were maintaining the status quo. The number of veterans experiencing homelessness had remained basically stagnant year after year for quite some time. For every veteran housed, another veteran would fall into homelessness.

During the pandemic we approached the homelessness crisis head on and with the urgency it has long deserved. It is incredible to me that we were able to reduce homelessness during COVID-19 by 11 percent. During the darkest days of that pandemic, VA actually reduced homelessness by 11 percent. It permanently housed over 40,000 veterans last year alone. We know these authorities accelerated VA's progress in ending veteran homelessness, and we can't lose that momentum.

I am pleased to hear the chairman wants to work together to extend these authorities and get homeless veterans into housing.

Mr. Speaker, I just say let's prioritize H.R. 645 in the coming days, not the coming months, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I will, and we will, work on this priority. What we can do is chew gum and walk at the same time, and that means we can go ahead and not only work on homelessness but also this bill, as important as it is. I appreciate the gentleman's concern, but believe me, our side of the aisle has just as much concern about our homeless veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for yielding me time.

As a 24-year Army veteran, I understand the importance of improving services for veterans as they transition to civilian life. VET-TEC is a pilot program that started under President Trump and was led by Speaker MCCARTHY. Let me repeat that. VET-TEC is a

highly popular and successful program that was started under President Trump that allows eligible veterans to use GI Bill-style benefits to attend innovative job training programs to prepare them for future employment in the technology industry.

Through this program, veterans can get training in high-demand areas, including computer software, computer programming, data processing, information science, and media applications. In addition to this, employment may help prevent and treat homelessness. We have seen 62 percent employment and \$65,000 per year average salaries.

I am grateful that my colleague, Representative CISCOMANI, introduced this important piece of legislation, which will help grow our economy and get veterans back to work. As a physician, it is no small aside that the dignity of working and having a purpose in life may also help improve mental health, which may also help improve homelessness.

The VET-TEC Authorization Act proves our commitment not only to maintaining funding levels but increasing support for veterans.

Last Congress, I led legislation to extend this important program, and I am proud to support this legislation today. This program has been widely popular and successful, and this is exactly the type of taxpayer-funded program that we can all support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the sponsor of the main part of this bill.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for yielding me time to talk about this important bill.

I am grateful that my bill, H.R. 1669, the VET-TEC Authorization Act, is being considered today on the House floor. This bipartisan effort would extend the invaluable program for our veterans, the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses, or VET-TEC program.

The VET-TEC pilot program allows eligible veterans to gain experience and training in high-demand tech jobs. Since the start of the VET-TEC program in 2019, introduced by Speaker MCCARTHY, over 12,000 veterans have completed the program in areas like computer programming, software development, data processing, and other in-demand careers. This is crucial to strengthening our American workforce, while enabling our vets to have a clear shot at the American Dream, a dream they have fought to protect for so many of us.

Of the veterans that completed the program, roughly 62 percent were offered a job related to the training they received, with an average salary of around \$65,000 a year. These results show that the program works, and by extending the program, we will ensure

veterans will be able to participate in the program in the coming years. Not only has this program been beneficial for our veterans, but it is crucial for our employers, as well. We need a skilled workforce working in the tech industry, and our veterans are the perfect fit.

I am proud to have partnered with Chairman BOST and Congressman KHANNA on this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the men and women who served our country can continue to grow in the civilian workforce, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill today.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), my friend and colleague from my home State who serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Oversight Committee.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TAKANO for his leadership. I am glad that veterans can still bring this House together.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to work with Speaker MCCARTHY back in 2017 on the pilot program, which has been a resounding success to provide veterans who serve this Nation with a technology skill so they can get jobs when they are back in the United States.

There was an 84 percent graduation rate, 12,000 veterans have been helped by this program, and the average salary was \$65,000. These are the types of things that we need to do in the House, bringing the House together to actually improve veterans' lives.

I appreciate Representative CISCOMANI's leadership, and I look forward to this program being permanent and hopefully expanded so veterans who serve our Nation, who do the highest duty, have the opportunity to have secure livings when they are back at home.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for all of his support for these bills that not only make life better for the veterans but also for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1669, the VET-TEC Authorization Act, which, as amended, includes the text of legislation I originally introduced as H.R. 234, Gerald's Law.

Gerald's Law was drafted and introduced on behalf of Gerald Elliott, a U.S. Army veteran and a resident of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, as well as on behalf of his family and the thousands of other veterans like him.

A lifelong Yooper, Jerry was a member of The American Legion Post 363 and was an active volunteer with U.P. Honor Flight and the Iron Mountain VA Hospital.

After a cancer diagnosis in 2019, Gerald received his care at the Iron Mountain VA. As the disease progressed and he was placed on hospice care, he decided to go home to enjoy his final days with his family.

Following his death, Jerry's family discovered that even though he received hospice care through the VA, his family did not qualify for burial benefits after his death; that is, burial benefits for Jerry himself. That is because under current law, VA hospice care provided at home does not qualify as a death under VA care and is, therefore, not covered under the nonservice-connected burial and plot benefit.

As a result of this quirk, if a veteran with a terminal illness wants the full burial benefit, they would be forced to die in a hospital or nursing home under the VA auspices instead of transferring to home hospice care. This is just, I am sure, a mistake. This injustice is unacceptable and unconscionable.

No veteran should worry about losing VA benefits for their family when choosing to spend their final days in the comfort of their own home. Gerald's Law will address this by extending VA burial allowance eligibility to veterans whose passing occurs at home while receiving VA hospice care if they were previously receiving VA hospital or nursing home care.

I am thankful for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their work to assist the thousands of veterans and family members being denied benefits due to this legislative oversight.

H.R. 1669, which includes Gerald's Law and other bipartisan, common-sense reforms, was approved unanimously by the committee in April.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of Congress, every Member of the House, to support its passage on the House floor today.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I commend General Bergman for the section of the VET-TEC bill which includes addressing this issue related to burials and the cost that the veteran's family has to bear, but I find it peculiar that the majority would take pains to include this legislation, which I have no quarrel with and support, but could not deal with and chose not to deal with the expiring authorities to deal with our homeless veterans.

Americans care deeply about the homeless veterans in our country and are offended that we would have anybody who wore the uniform of the United States be homeless.

There are elements of this bill that came up in markup. They brought the bill to the floor, the VET-TEC bill, which includes many elements, but they specifically chose to leave out addressing the expiring authorities that we have used to bring down homelessness by 11 percent. I am afraid we are going to lose momentum.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, one thing that needs to be very, very clear, the Bergman bill does not have a TEF issue, a toxic exposure fund issue. That is where the concerns are.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.



□ 1715

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I realize the chairman and all of us in the veteran space have had our differences with the way the Congressional Budget Office scores the TEF. However, I would assert that we cannot use that as an excuse for why we don't address veteran homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, the expansion of VET-TEC as a program is to the tune of nearly one-half billion dollars—\$413 million—at a time when my colleagues on the other side are looking to make draconian cuts to the nondefense side of the ledger, which veterans do fall within. They are expanding a program that addresses veteran employment at a time when veteran unemployment is at its lowest.

What I want to compare is the \$6 million to the nearly one-half billion dollars that the Republicans want to expand this program by. I, too, stand behind veteran employment programs and effective ones at that. However, should we be expanding it and authorizing for 5 years this program, VET-TEC, when we are allowing a \$6 million program to care for homeless veterans, to get them off the streets, to expire?

It is a rather rich situation that my colleagues want to expand spending and spend more on a program whose urgency is really in question because the Biden economy, as I explained, has brought veteran unemployment to its lowest levels ever. They want to expand spending in that program by an enormous amount, yet they want to eliminate \$6 million in authorizations to take care of our homeless veterans. This makes no sense at all to me.

I support the chairman's bill, but I hope he will work with us to solve this problem in a matter of days and not months.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to say a couple of things that I have said on this House floor before. I am going to say them again.

The gentleman referred to our cutting veterans. Actually, we are increasing over the President's budget. We will get more into that later this week in committee.

Let me also say this, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat my plea right now that our friends on the other side of the aisle join me in developing a solution to an issue that he has decided is not anything more than a political ploy, trying to say that we are going to cut benefits by straightening this problem out.

We are not. We will not. Let me say this again on this floor: Veterans are not being cut, period.

This is a good piece of legislation. It is bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all the people on our side of the aisle and on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1669, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 777) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 777

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023" or the "Veterans' COLA Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2023, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2023, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(d) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2023, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively,

consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

#### SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2024.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 777.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 777. I appreciate Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN for their leadership on this important bill. I also thank Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Chairman LUTTRELL and Ranking Member PAPPAS for leading the House companion to S. 777.

Our bipartisan collaboration on this legislation each year is vitally important. The Veterans' COLA Act of 2023 would increase the rates of compensation for our veterans and their survivors to keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of living.

Many veterans fought for our country and came back with visible and invisible injuries. Their disability compensation benefits provide financial security for service-disabled veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, veterans should not have to worry whether their earned benefits can cover their basic needs. They should not have to choose between gas to get to work or groceries for their family.

However, unfortunately, because of the Biden inflation problem that has occurred because of out-of-control spending, this is a reality for thousands of veterans' families. The least we can do for them is to provide a cost-of-living adjustment this year so they can continue to pay their bills and put food on their tables.

I am proud to support this bill today, and I hope all my colleagues will join me in sending this bill to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.



Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 777, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023.

As we do annually, today, we are taking up legislation to increase the amounts paid for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Specifically, the bill requires VA to raise these benefit amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase provided to Social Security recipients, serving as a guarantee of quality of life for veterans and their families and ensuring that they will not experience a decline in earned benefits as economic conditions fluctuate.

The cost-of-living adjustment is a continued recognition by our grateful Nation of the service and sacrifice not just of those who have courageously worn our Nation's uniforms but those families who have supported them and also bear a great burden.

As ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is an honor for me to support this effort.

I will note, however, that particularly with respect to dependency and indemnity compensation, more needs to be done beyond the annual COLA to bring that program on par with other Federal survivors' benefits. It has lagged behind for far too long, which is a disservice to the survivors of our veterans. I hope this committee can see fit to advance that cause this Congress, as well.

Typically, we alternate primary sponsorship of this bill with the Senate, and this year it happens to be the Senate's turn. I acknowledge the Senate for promptly sending us their version.

I also commend the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and extend my gratitude to Ranking Member PAPPAS and Chair LUTTRELL for their sponsorship of the House companion to this bill and for their unwavering support for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support S. 777, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 777.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN for leading this bill through the Senate. I also thank the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee's ranking member, Mr. PAPPAS, for joining me and co-leading the House companion to S. 777.

As Chairman BOST said, this legislation is necessary to ensure that veterans' and survivors' compensation benefits keep pace with rising inflation.

There are veterans in my district who are struggling to make ends meet. Without their disability compensation benefits, they may not be able to do just that.

Finances and the ability to pay bills can be a major source of stress and anxiety for so many veterans, survivors, and their families. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in just 1 year, the consumer price index has risen 4.9 percent, with housing and gas prices at the front of the charge. This bill is crucial to ensure that veterans can keep pace with this widespread inflation.

Mr. Speaker, I know many of my colleagues are committed to helping their veteran constituents, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO for yielding the time and Chairman BOST, as well, for his support of this legislation. It was an honor to be able to work with subcommittee Chair LUTTRELL on this important issue, S. 777, the Veterans' COLA Act of 2023.

We all know we have a sacred and solemn obligation to make sure that the needs of our veterans are met. My home State of New Hampshire is home to over 100,000 veterans from all branches, with service dating from the Second World War to today. Some of those veterans returned home with service-connected disabilities and required extra care and support.

As we all continue to feel the impact of inflation and higher costs, those pressures can be particularly challenging for our veteran community.

Our veterans swear to give everything, up to and including their lives, in service to our country. They shouldn't have to worry if they can afford groceries this week or pay their electric bill the next week.

Their VA benefits should keep pace with economic trends, and their financial and overall well-being should never be left to hang in the balance.

This legislation would increase the rates of VA benefits equal to the cost-of-living increase provided for Social Security benefits for veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for their survivors and families.

This will help ensure that veterans with service-connected disabilities and families and loved ones of veterans who have been lost can rest assured that their benefits will support them even as our economy changes.

We owe our veterans and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude, and the legislation we propose today is another way that we can all work to honor their sacrifice and work to pay down that debt that we all bear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of this bipartisan bill so we can send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend who serves on the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank very much the ranking member; Mr. BOST; my good friend from Texas; the ranking member, the gentleman from New Hampshire; and, of course, in the other body, Senator TESTER for a very instructive and important initiative dealing with the cost of living for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues are embraced and engaged with veterans—which many of us do every time we are home in the district—they realize that they, in many instances, continue their service in the kinds of work that they do. Realize, however, that they have any number of additional challenges in many instances. That, of course, includes some of the health issues, housing issues, and ability-to-support-family issues.

The cost of living is, in essence, something that we should make as a commitment for the service that they have given.

□ 1730

I know that we often say thank you for your service, and we often have a smile on our face. I want it to be well known, well known, that it is by our action and our deeds, not just by our words.

The veterans that we see across our districts and across America have fought in many wars. Many of them believe that they have not been given the full amount of their veteran benefits.

They believe that they are still trying to petition for a level of disability, if you will. Some are at a certain percentage and feel that they deserve another percentage because they are in a financial condition that causes them to wonder about their service and their service-connected disability. We get all of those questions.

I think the overall statement that has been made about the cost of living is to recognize the difficulty our veterans have, the increasing amount of moneys that it requires for us to take care of our veterans, and that this is a responsible and respectable way of doing so.

I hope that we will pass this quickly. I hope that it will go to the President's desk. I hope that when we see our veterans, we will be able to be an exhibitor of deeds, that we stood on the floor of the House to say thank you.

We stood on the floor of the House to say we recognize the needs that you have from the veterans hospitals, veterans clinics, and certainly for the need of increased compensation.

This is an important statement not only for veterans but for their families.

It is an important statement for the young men and women who put on the uniform today unselfishly.

They will ultimately be veterans, and we hope that they will be able to serve, and they will be able to come out as veterans.

Please be reminded as we celebrate Memorial Day there are those who put on the uniform unselfishly, and they never made it home.

We want to be able to honor those, but as well, we want to honor living veterans. I support this legislation that provides for a veterans COLA of 2023.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to pass S. 777, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I also encourage all of our Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 777.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 346) to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

##### Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023".

##### SEC. 2. FAA TASK FORCE ON NOTAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a task force to be known as the FAA Task Force on NOTAM Improvement (in this section referred to as the "Task Force").

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator, including at least one member of each of the following:

- (1) Air carrier representatives.
- (2) Airport representatives.
- (3) Labor union representatives of airline pilots.
- (4) Labor union representatives of aircraft dispatchers.
- (5) The labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA air traffic control specialists assigned to the United States NOTAMs Office.
- (6) The labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA aeronautical information specialists.

(7) General and business aviation representatives.

(8) Aviation safety experts with knowledge of NOTAMs.

(9) Human factors experts.

(10) Computer system architecture and cybersecurity experts.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Task Force shall include—

(1) reviewing existing methods for publishing NOTAMs and flight operations information to pilots;

(2) reviewing regulations, policies, systems, and international standards relating to NOTAMs, including their content and presentation to pilots;

(3) evaluating and determining best practices to organize, prioritize, and present flight operations information in a manner that optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information; and

(4) providing recommendations for—

(A) improving the publication and delivery of NOTAM information in a manner that prioritizes or highlights the most important information, and optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information;

(B) ways to ensure that NOTAMs are complete, accurate, timely, relevant to safe flight operations, and contain pertinent information;

(C) any best practices that the FAA should consider to improve the accuracy and understandability of NOTAMs and the display of flight operations information;

(D) ways to work with air carriers, other airspace users, and aviation service providers to implement solutions that are aligned with the recommendations under this paragraph; and

(E) ways to ensure the stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the NOTAM computer system.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the results of the reviews and evaluations of the Task Force under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (c);

(2) the best practices identified and recommendations provided by the Task Force under subsection (c)(4);

(3) any recommendations of the Task Force for additional regulatory or policy actions to improve the publication of NOTAMs; and

(4) the degree to which implementing the recommendations of the Task Force described under paragraph (2) will address National Transportation Safety Board Safety Recommendation A-18-024.

(e) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Task Force.

(f) **SUNSET.**—The Task Force shall terminate on the later of—

(1) the date on which the Task Force submits the report required under subsection (d); or

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

(g) **AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator shall have the authority to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force detailed in the report required under subsection (d).

(h) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to require the FAA to duplicate any prior, ongoing, or planned efforts related to the improvement of NOTAMs, including any efforts related to implementing any previously enacted requirements.

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **FAA.**—The term "FAA" means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) **NOTAM.**—The term "NOTAM" means a notice containing information (which is not known sufficiently in advance to publicize by

other means) concerning the establishment, condition, or change in any component (including a facility, service, or procedure thereof) or hazard in the National Airspace System, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations.

##### SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than September 30, 2024, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall make the following improvements:

(1) Complete implementation of a Federal NOTAM System (in this section referred to as a "FNS").

(2) Implement a back-up system to the FNS.

(3) Brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on a plan to enhance the capability to deliver information through the FNS that is machine-readable, filterable, and in the format used by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to promote further global harmonization among neighboring Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and provide users of the National Airspace System with one consistent format for domestic and international operations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the Senate amendment to H.R. 346.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bipartisan legislation that improves the safety of air travel.

NOTAMs provide current, up-to-the-minute data to pilots on any aspect of their flight. Unfortunately, NOTAMs are often buried in lengthy reports, conflating important safety information with more common alerts. These inefficiencies have created some life-threatening situations over the years.

On January 11, 2023, all U.S. domestic flights were grounded for the first time since 9/11. The NOTAM system crashed. Old and antiquated, it comes as no real surprise that the system easily went down.

Unfortunately, leadership at the Department of Transportation has left me uninspired. Instead of focusing resources on safety improvements and upgrades, Secretary Buttigieg has spent his time retitling programs and systems.

I will tell you that no pilot cares what the system is called, just that it works and provides her with the information she needs to get her crew and her passengers to safety.

Mr. Speaker, I have been advocating for NOTAM upgrades for 4 years. My

legislation, which creates a task force at the FAA with important input from safety experts, industry professionals, and unions to address both the efficiency and resiliency of the NOTAM system, has passed out of the House in both the 116th and the 117th Congresses.

However, it is only after a disastrous event that this legislation finally got the traction it deserves. We must stop reacting in Congress. We must be thoughtful, considerate, and proactive in how we legislate.

I thank my good friend and colleague, Mr. DESAULNIER, for his support and his leadership on this legislation and Senators KLOBUCHAR and CAPITO for pushing the legislation in the Senate.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation before another failure of the NOTAM system occurs. Our pilots, our crews, and our passengers are counting on us.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my good friend, Representative STAUBER, for his work on the bill.

I am really grateful to be here once again to support H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act, which we introduced together and worked on and will continue to work on together.

The Notice to Air Mission System is an essential part of our aviation infrastructure as it provides critical real-time flight safety information, including potential hazards to pilots, flight dispatchers, and other airspace users.

In 2017, an Air Canada plane at San Francisco International Airport preparing to land flew within 59 feet of four fully loaded planes, narrowly avoiding an unimaginable disaster. It would have been the greatest aviation disaster in American history. If it wasn't for the quick thinking of a couple of United Airlines pilots who saw him approaching inappropriately, we would have had that disaster. The National Transportation Safety Board investigation found that the outdated NOTAM system was a significant part of the problem.

The importance of this work was further emphasized when earlier this year in January, U.S. airspace came to a standstill when the Federal Aviation Administration grounded all airline domestic departures due to an outage of the system.

Although the FAA worked to quickly solve the problem and lift all of the domestic flight stops, airlines and passengers faced the cascading effects of mass delays and cancellations for hours.

The NOTAM outage also exposed significant vulnerabilities in the FAA's legacy IT infrastructure and underscored the need for Congress to take decisive action to quickly modernize these critical safety systems that flight crews and airline passengers depend on.

To help strengthen the integrity of the NOTAM system, this bipartisan bill directs the FAA to create a task force on NOTAM improvement to:

Identify best practices to make sure that critical flight information is disseminated to pilots in a way that optimizes review and retention; and

Develop recommendations to ensure the stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the NOTAM system.

This task force will consist of key aviation stakeholders including: airline pilots, air traffic controllers, aircraft dispatchers, air carriers, and aviation safety and computer system experts.

It also requires the FAA to complete its NOTAM modernization efforts and do other IT system upgrades by the fall of 2024.

As the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee continues to work on the upcoming FAA reauthorization bill, we will build upon the 2018 law and implement any necessary improvements to safeguard U.S. airspace from cascading system outages.

The task force created under this bill will play an important role in the FAA's ongoing NOTAM modernization initiative to ensure pilots, flight crews, and other airspace users receive NOTAMs that are timely, relevant, and accurate.

I am very proud to have worked with Representative STAUBER on the NOTAM Improvement Act to protect the safety of the flying public. At a time when there is much disagreement within our parties, I am glad that we worked together in a bipartisan manner to prioritize aviation safety.

I am also grateful that our Senate colleagues recognized the importance of this issue and worked quickly to pass this bipartisan bill.

Our unwavering bipartisan commitment to aviation safety continues to be a priority for Congress and the FAA.

As we enter what is expected to be a busy summer travel season, H.R. 346 will help put us on course to pursue best practices that bolster safety, prevent future disruptions, and allow for pilots, air traffic controllers, crews, and customers to be safe and feel confident in the technology and in the U.S. aviation system.

I am proud to support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), my good friend.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the NOTAM Improvement Act.

I thank my friend from the great State of Minnesota, my friends across the aisle, George, everyone here. I thank you all so much for being here today.

Nearly 3 million people every day count on flights in the United States to safely get them to where they need to go.

The Notice to Air Mission System is how we make sure that that will hap-

pen. The system is how we tell pilots about possible hazards.

When the system gets all jacked up, flights can't take off. It is just that simple. Back in January, planes across the country were grounded for the first time since 2001 because of a damaged file in our Notice to Air Mission database.

We need to prevent this from happening, Mr. Speaker. We need to prevent it from happening again and also look at what other improvements could be made.

Safety isn't a joke. It should be one of the Federal Aviation Administration's top priorities, not worrying about over 4 ounces of honey in your baggage.

This bill has bipartisan support, and there isn't any reason that it shouldn't pass with overwhelming support now.

The reason the press isn't here is mainly because we are agreeing on something, and we are working together, which is what this body is supposed to be doing, dadgummit.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you all so much for allowing me to be here.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, once again I will say how fulfilling this has been and how much work we still have to do, but I know we will work in partnership to make sure that we fulfill a long history in this country of aviation safety and make sure it gets even better.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other Members on my side to speak, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 346 is a key step toward safeguarding the integrity and safety of America's national airspace.

This legislation proves that Congress can rise to the challenges of the day, and I urge all Members to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 346.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1076;

H.R. 1156; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

# PREVENTING THE FINANCING OF ILLEGAL SYNTHETIC DRUGS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1076) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 2, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 228]

YEAS—402

Adams	Budzinski	Correa
Aderholt	Burchett	Costa
Aguilar	Burgess	Courtney
Alford	Bush	Craig
Allen	Calvert	Crane
Allred	Cammack	Crawford
Amodei	Caraveo	Crenshaw
Armstrong	Carbajal	Crockett
Arrington	Carey	Crow
Babin	Cuellar	Curtis
Bacon	Carson	D'Esposito
Baird	Carter (GA)	Davids (KS)
Balderson	Carter (LA)	Davidson
Balint	Carter (TX)	Davis (IL)
Banks	Cartwright	Davis (NC)
Barr	Casar	De La Cruz
Barragán	Case	Dean (PA)
Bean (FL)	Casten	DeGette
Beatty	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Bentz	Castro (TX)	DeBene
Bera	Chavez-DeRemer	Deluzio
Bergman	Cherfilus-	DeSaulnier
Bice	McCormick	Diaz-Balart
Biggs	Chu	Doggett
Bilirakis	Cicilline	Donalds
Bishop (GA)	Ciscomani	Duarte
Bishop (NC)	Clark (MA)	Duncan
Blumenauer	Clarke (NY)	Dunn (FL)
Blunt Rochester	Cleaver	Edwards
Bonamici	Cline	Ellzey
Bost	Cloud	Emmer
Bowman	Clyburn	Escobar
Boyle (PA)	Clyde	Eshoo
Brecheen	Cohen	Espallat
Brownley	Cole	Estes
Buchanan	Collins	Connolly
Buck	Comer	
Bucshon	Connolly	Evans

Ezell	LaHood	Rosendale
Fallon	LaLota	Ross
Feenstra	Lamborn	Rouzer
Ferguson	Landsman	Roy
Finstad	Langworthy	Ruiz
Fischbach	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
Fitzgerald	Latta	Rutherford
Fitzpatrick	LaTurner	Ryan
Fleischmann	Lawler	Salazar
Fletcher	Lee (CA)	Salinas
Flood	Lee (FL)	Sánchez
Foster	Lee (NV)	Santos
Foushee	Lee (PA)	Sarbanes
Fox	Leger Fernandez	Scalise
Frankel, Lois	Lesko	Scanlon
Franklin, C.	Letlow	Schakowsky
Scott	Levin	Schiff
Frost	Lieu	Schneider
Fry	Lofgren	Scholten
Fulcher	Loudermilk	Schrier
Gallagher	Lucas	Schweikert
Gallego	Luetkemeyer	Scott (VA)
Garbarino	Luna	Scott, Austin
Garcia (IL)	Luttrell	Scott, David
Garcia (TX)	Lynch	Self
Garcia, Mike	Mace	Sessions
Garcia, Robert	Magaziner	Sherman
Gimenez	Malliotakis	Sherrill
Golden (ME)	Mann	Slotkin
Goldman (NY)	Manning	Smith (MO)
Gomez	Mast	Smith (NE)
Gonzales, Tony	Matsui	Smith (NJ)
Gonzalez,	McBath	Smith (WA)
Vicente	McClain	Smucker
Good (VA)	McClellan	Sorensen
Gooden (TX)	McClintock	Soto
Gosar	McCollum	Spanberger
Gottheimer	McCormick	Spartz
Granger	McGarvey	Stansbury
Graves (MO)	Meeks	Stanton
Green (TN)	Menendez	Staubert
Green, Al (TX)	Meng	Steel
Greene (GA)	Meuser	Stefanik
Griffith	Mfume	Steil
Grothman	Miller (OH)	Steube
Guest	Miller (WV)	Stevens
Guthrie	Miller-Meeks	Stewart
Hageman	Mills	Strickland
Harder (CA)	Molinaro	Strong
Harris	Moolenaar	Swalwell
Harshbarger	Mooney	Sykes
Hayes	Moore (AL)	Takano
Hern	Moore (UT)	Tenney
Higgins (LA)	Moore (WI)	Thandekar
Higgins (NY)	Moran	Thompson (CA)
Hill	Morelle	Thompson (PA)
Himes	Moskowitz	Tiffany
Hinson	Moulton	Timmons
Horsford	Mryan	Titus
Houchin	Mullin	Tlaib
Houlahan	Murphy	Tokuda
Hoyer	Nadler	Tonko
Hoyle (OR)	Napolitano	Torres (CA)
Hudson	Neguse	Torres (NY)
Huffman	Nehls	Trahan
Huizenga	Newhouse	Trone
Hunt	Nickel	Turner
Issa	Norcross	Underwood
Ivey	Norman	Valadao
Jackson (IL)	Nunn (IA)	Van Drew
Jackson (NC)	Ocasio-Cortez	Alford
Jackson (TX)	Ogles	Van Dwyne
Jackson Lee	Omar	Van Orden
Jacobs	Owens	Vasquez
James	Pallone	Veasey
Jayapal	Palmer	Velázquez
Jeffries	Panetta	Wagner
Johnson (GA)	Pappas	Walberg
Johnson (OH)	Pascarell	Waltz
Johnson (SD)	Payne	Wasserman
Jordan	Pence	Schultz
Joyce (OH)	Perez	Watson Coleman
Joyce (PA)	Perry	Weber (TX)
Kamlaager-Dove	Peters	Webster (FL)
Kaptur	Pettersen	Wenstrup
Kean (NJ)	Pfluger	Westerman
Keating	Phillips	Weston
Kelly (IL)	Pingree	Wild
Kelly (MS)	Porter	Williams (GA)
Kelly (PA)	Posey	Williams (NY)
Khanna	Pressley	Williams (TX)
Kiggans (VA)	Ramirez	Wilson (SC)
Kildee	Raskin	Wittman
Kiley	Reschenthaler	Womack
Kilmer	Rodgers (WA)	Yakym
Kim (CA)	Rodgers (AL)	Zinke
Kim (NJ)	Rogers (KY)	
Kuster	Rose	

NAYS—2

Massie  
NOT VOTING—30

Auchincloss	Johnson (LA)	Oberholte
Beyer	Krishnamoorthi	Pelosi
Boebert	Kustoff	Peltola
Brown	LaMalfa	Pocan
Burlison	Larson (CT)	Quigley
Cardenas	McCaull	Sewell
Dingell	McGovern	Simpson
Garamendi	McHenry	Thompson (MS)
Graves (LA)	Miller (IL)	Vargas
Grijalva	Neal	Wilson (FL)

□ 1857

Mr. JEFFRIES changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 228.

# CHINA FINANCIAL THREAT MITIGATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1156) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 5, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 229]

YEAS—400

Adams	Bowman	Cherfilus-
Aderholt	Boyle (PA)	McCormick
Aguilar	Brecheen	Chu
Alford	Brown	Cicilline
Allen	Brownley	Ciscomani
Allred	Buchanan	Clark (MA)
Amodei	Buck	Clarke (NY)
Armstrong	Bucshon	Cleaver
Arrington	Budzinski	Cline
Babin	Burchett	Cloud
Bacon	Burgess	Clyburn
Baird	Bush	Clyde
Balderson	Calvert	Cohen
Balint	Cammack	Cole
Banks	Caraveo	Collins
Barr	Carbajal	Comer
Barragán	Carey	Connolly
Bean (FL)	Carl	Correa
Beatty	Carson	Costa
Bentz	Carter (GA)	Courtney
Bera	Carter (LA)	Craig
Bergman	Carter (TX)	Crawford
Bice	Cartwright	Crenshaw
Bilirakis	Casar	Crockett
Bishop (GA)	Case	Crow
Bishop (NC)	Casten	Cuellar
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Curtis
Blunt Rochester	Castro (TX)	D'Esposito
Bonamici	Chavez-DeRemer	Davids (KS)
Bost		Davidson

Davis (IL) Jayapal  
 Davis (NC) Jeffries  
 De La Cruz Johnson (GA)  
 Dean (PA) Johnson (OH)  
 DeGette Johnson (SD)  
 DeLauro Jordan  
 DelBene Joyce (OH)  
 Deluzio Joyce (PA)  
 DeSaulnier Kamlager-Dove  
 DesJarlais Kaptur  
 Diaz-Balart Kean (NJ)  
 Doggett Keating  
 Donalds Kelly (IL)  
 Duarte Kelly (MS)  
 Duncan Kelly (PA)  
 Dunn (FL) Khanna  
 Edwards Kiggans (VA)  
 Ellzey Kildee  
 Emmer Kiley  
 Escobar Kilmer  
 Eshoo Kim (CA)  
 Espallat Kim (NJ)  
 Estes Kuster  
 Evans LaHood  
 Ezell LaLota  
 Fallon LaMalfa  
 Feenstra Lamborn  
 Ferguson Landsman  
 Finstad Langworthy  
 Fischbach Larsen (WA)  
 Fitzgerald Larson (CT)  
 Fitzpatrick Latta  
 Fleischmann LaTurner  
 Fletcher Lawler  
 Flood Lee (CA)  
 Foster Lee (FL)  
 Foushee Lee (NV)  
 Foxx Lee (PA)  
 Frankel, Lois Leger Fernandez  
 Franklin, C. Lesko  
 Scott Letlow  
 Frost Levin  
 Fry Lieu  
 Fulcher Lofgren  
 Gaetz Loudermilk  
 Gallagher Lucas  
 Gallego Luetkemeyer  
 Garbarino Luna  
 Garcia (IL) Luttrell  
 Garcia (TX) Lynch  
 Garcia, Mike Mace  
 Garcia, Robert Magaziner  
 Gimenez Malliotakis  
 Golden (ME) Mann  
 Goldman (NY) Manning  
 Gomez Mast  
 Gonzales, Tony Matsui  
 Gonzalez, Vicente McBath  
 Good (VA) McClain  
 Gooden (TX) McClellan  
 Gottheimer McClintock  
 Granger McCollum  
 Graves (MO) McCormick  
 Green (TN) McGarvey  
 Green, Al (TX) Meeks  
 Greene (GA) Menendez  
 Griffith Meng  
 Grothman Meuser  
 Guest Mfume  
 Guthrie Miller (OH)  
 Hageman Miller (WV)  
 Harder (CA) Miller-Meeks  
 Harris Mills  
 Harshbarger Molinaro  
 Hayes Moonenar  
 Hern Mooney  
 Higgins (LA) Moore (AL)  
 Higgins (NY) Moore (UT)  
 Hill Moore (WI)  
 Himes Moran  
 Hinson Morelle  
 Horsford Moskowitz  
 Houchin Moulton  
 Houlahan Mrvan  
 Hoyer Mullin  
 Hoyle (OR) Murphy  
 Hudson Nadler  
 Huffman Napolitano  
 Huizenga Neguse  
 Hunt Nehls  
 Issa Newhouse  
 Ivey Nickel  
 Jackson (IL) Norcross  
 Jackson (NC) Nunn (IA)  
 Jackson (TX) Ocasio-Cortez  
 Jackson Lee Ogles  
 Jacobs Omar  
 James Owens  
 Pallone

Palmer  
 Panetta  
 Pappas  
 Pascarell  
 Payne  
 Pence  
 Perez  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Pettersen  
 Pfluger  
 Phillips  
 Pingree  
 Porter  
 Posey  
 Pressley  
 Ramirez  
 Raskin  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rodgers (WA)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rose  
 Ross  
 Rouzer  
 Roy  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Rutherford  
 Ryan  
 Salazar  
 Salinas  
 Sanchez  
 Santos  
 Sarbanes  
 Scalise  
 Scanlon  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Schneider  
 Scholten  
 Schrier  
 Schweikert  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, Austin  
 Scott, David  
 Self  
 Sessions  
 Sherman  
 Sherrill  
 Slotkin  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (WA)  
 Smucker  
 Sorensen  
 Soto  
 Spanberger  
 Spartz  
 Stansbury  
 Stanton  
 Stauber  
 Steel  
 Stefanik  
 Steil  
 Steube  
 Stevens  
 Stewart  
 Strickland  
 Strong  
 Sykes  
 Takano  
 Tenney  
 Thanedar  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Tiffany  
 Timmons  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Torres (NY)  
 Trahan  
 Trone  
 Turner  
 Underwood  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Dyuine  
 Van Orden  
 Vasquez  
 Veasey  
 Velazquez  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Waltz

Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman  
 Weston  
 Wild  
 Williams (GA)  
 Williams (NY)  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke

#### NAYS—5

Biggs  
 Crane  
 Massie  
 Norman  
 Rosendale

#### NOT VOTING—29

Auchincloss  
 Beyer  
 Boebert  
 Burlison  
 Cardenas  
 Dingell  
 Garamendi  
 Gosar  
 Graves (LA)  
 Grijalva  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Krishnamoorthi  
 Kustoff  
 McCaul  
 McGovern  
 McHenry  
 Miller (IL)  
 Neal  
 Obernolte  
 Pelosi  
 Peltola  
 Pocan  
 Quigley  
 Sewell  
 Simpson  
 Swalwell  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Vargas  
 Wilson (FL)

#### □ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 228 (H.R. 1076) and "yea" on rollcall No. 229 (H.R. 1156).

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN MARION BERRY

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a former Member of this body who served the people of the First District of Arkansas, Mr. Marion Berry, who passed away over the weekend following a long illness.

Congressman Berry was born in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and he grew up in the small Arkansas County town of Bayou Meto. The son of a rice farmer, Congressman Berry would work as a pharmacist and eventually in agriculture, which led to a career in public service caring for and advocating on behalf of those he worked around in the Arkansas Delta.

Congressman Berry worked alongside President Clinton in the White House and would eventually run for office, serving seven terms in Washington representing the First District of Arkansas where he was a member of the Appropriations Committee.

While his work in Washington was important to him, he worked tirelessly

to draw attention to the people of the First District, especially those who lived in the delta.

Congressman Berry will always be known for his political wit and wisdom but will be remembered and respected for the service he provided to his community, constituents, and country in the House of Representatives.

Our delegation, our families, and so many across the State of Arkansas offer our condolences and prayers as we remember Congressman Berry and his family during this time of mourning and remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAN). The House will stand in a moment of silence.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 915

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove myself as a cosponsor to H.R. 915.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

#### NATO SUPPORTING UKRAINE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I was grateful to participate in the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session in Luxembourg led by Intelligence Committee Chairman MIKE TURNER with former Assembly President GERRY CONNOLLY.

U.S. Ambassador Tom Barrett and our Luxembourg hosts were incredible, providing a heartfelt welcome by President of the Chamber of Deputies Fernand Etgen with the enthusiastic Ambassador to the United States, Nicole Bintner. The Minister of Defense Francois Bausch indicated that the budget for defense is being doubled in the great country of Luxembourg.

Prime Minister Xavier Bettel hosted breakfast today for the delegation, and he cited the Luxembourg appreciation of America that will never be forgotten for the thousands of Americans who died fighting for their liberation in 1944.

The closing resolution approved today reaffirmed unwavering support for Ukraine's democracy and territorial integrity and holds accountable the Russian regime for its war crimes. He also denounced the ideology and practice of ruscism, defining Putin fascism.

On our departure, we had the leadership of Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, former Ambassador to Luxembourg, to lay a wreath at the historic Luxembourg American Cemetery.

Our sympathy to the family of the beloved Mary Dozier Lee Ellsworth of Lexington.

□ 1915

### PRAISING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF RENEE POWELL

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the life and career of golfer Renee Powell and discuss why she deserves a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 1967, Renee Powell became just the second African American to play on the LPGA tour and competed in more than 250 professional tournaments.

Also, Powell was an international ambassador for the game of golf. She was a member of the British PGA, won a tournament in Australia, and taught golf to African heads of state.

In 1977, she was the first woman ever to play in a men's professional golf tournament. In 2017, Powell was elected to the PGA American Hall of Fame. However, she was more than an exceptional golfer.

Powell designed golf apparel for the famous British department store Harrods. Today, she runs Clearview H.O.P.E., a rehabilitation program for female war veterans.

Renee Powell is an American icon and a civil rights pioneer, and she deserves to be recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF JERRY HOGAN, SR.

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jerry Hogan, Sr. Jerry was born in the Old Fort neighborhood of Savannah in 1942.

Before his graduation from Benedictine Military School in 1961, he attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

After Benedictine, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving with honor and distinction before transferring to the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

As well as his Marine Corps service, Jerry was a police officer on Tybee Island. After his stint with the Tybee Island Police Department, he went on to become a stevedore at the Port of Savannah and the Port of Miami.

In 1975 he started M.J. Hogan & Company and followed that up in 1991 with Hogan's Marina. He led both companies until his passing.

A devout Catholic, he was active in every parish in which he lived and the diocese at large, and he founded the Joseph O'Brien Ramsey Scholarship at his alma mater, Benedictine.

Jerry was also active in community and civic associations, being a member of the Jaycees, the Propeller Club of the Port of Savannah, and the Chat-ham County Tax Assessors Board.

A proud Irish American, he served as the general chairman, adjutant, and finally as grand marshal of the Savannah St. Patrick's Day parade.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Hogan family during this most difficult time.

### THE CLOCK IS TICKING

(Mrs. McCLELLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, the GOP continues to hold the American economy hostage unless their extreme ransom note is met. However, the June 1 deadline is fast approaching, and progress must be made in negotiations.

The debt ceiling will be reached 10 days from now. If Republicans keep up their brinkmanship and drive us into default, the United States will be unable to pay its bills.

This will have unimaginable consequences for our seniors and people nearing retirement. It will be particularly damaging for retirees who rely on monthly Social Security payments to survive.

Our seniors worked hard, paid into the system all their lives, and they should be able to count on the monthly checks that they have earned.

However, a Republican-forced debt default would jeopardize Social Security payments for 98,000 families in my district.

Default would also wreak havoc on the stock market, threatening retirement savings of over 100,000 of my constituents and eliminating approximately \$20,000 from typical retirement portfolios.

We have a responsibility to protect the well-being and financial security of our seniors. We must raise the debt ceiling now. The clock is ticking.

### STOPPING THE INFLUX OF FENTANYL

(Mr. LAWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the scourge of fentanyl and opioids that have made their way into New York's Hudson Valley, a region I proudly represent.

It is critical that we all work together to find solutions to the devastating impacts these illegal substances can have.

I am fully committed to doing everything I can to stop the inflow of fentanyl at our southern border and points of entry and hold the cartels and those trafficking fentanyl-laced drugs accountable.

I am also dedicated to doing everything I can to assist organizations that play a critical role in the treatment, recovery, and education of those in the Hudson Valley struggling with substance use disorders, which is why I am

supporting H.R. 467, the HALT Fentanyl Act.

This bill will categorize fentanyl as a schedule I drug as it has no currently accepted medical value and a high potential for abuse. Additionally, this bill establishes a new alternative registration process for schedule I research.

As someone who has seen firsthand the incredible positive impacts that recovery can have on families, I am in this fight for the long haul and know the importance of it.

Mr. Speaker, together, we can make a real impact, and I encourage my colleagues to pass H.R. 467.

### PASSING IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I traveled to the southern border to witness the challenges firsthand.

First and foremost, I thank the Brownsville port of entry field operation officers and Border Patrol agents at the central processing center in McAllen for working around the clock to ensure our Nation is secure.

While in Texas, I witnessed a drug bust, asylum seekers, and an unaccompanied minor in detention. I heard about the strain on the men and women fighting to keep our citizens safe.

Mr. Speaker, one officer told me you could double the workforce tomorrow, and there would still be plenty of work.

These workers are doing more with less, so we must ensure they have the technology, infrastructure, and recruitment tools to help secure our border most effectively.

Immigration reform must be safe, orderly, and humane.

### IMPROVING MILITARY HOUSING

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the need for further transparency and accountability in military housing.

The most critical asset in the defense of our Nation are the men and women who choose to serve. Therefore, our personnel and families deserve to have their most basic needs addressed, and this starts with housing.

For several years now, military housing has been plagued with widespread complaints of neglect, unsafe conditions, and careless repairs.

Recently, I introduced the Military Housing Transparency and Accountability Act, which would expand the assessment tool created in the 2020 NDAA to include all military housing, as well as enhancing the reporting requirements to ensure accountability.

As an Army dad, I know firsthand the challenges our servicemen and women

face when finding safe and comfortable housing.

They should feel confident if an issue arises it will be resolved and in a timely manner. This bipartisan bill is a step in the right direction and will improve transparency and oversight with the goal of fixing a system that has serious issues.

Given the ongoing recruitment and retention challenges in our Armed Forces, ensuring adequate housing for servicemembers and their families is an important and necessary part of the solution.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. NICHOLAS BALABKINS

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Nicholas Balabkins of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Balabkins was born in 1926 in Latvia and immigrated to the United States after World War II where he received his master's and doctorate degrees in economics.

For decades, Dr. Balabkins was a staple of the Lehigh University community, known for his ready smile and colorful bow ties and recognized by awards for his teaching excellence.

He wrote a dozen books and published over 40 professional economics articles, earning worldwide recognition for his work.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Dr. Balabkins received the highest civilian honor from his home country of Latvia: Order of the Three Stars.

Dr. Balabkins will be remembered as an extraordinary professor, neighbor, colleague, and friend. We honor his lifelong dedication to shaping the lives of the students who were lucky enough to pass through his classroom.

#### RED FLAG LAWS

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because earlier today in Royal Oak, Michigan, our Governor, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, alongside our Attorney General, Dana Nessel, Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist, our State house judiciary chair Kelly Breen, and a former Member of Congress, Gabby Giffords, stood today as the Governor signed into law a suite of bills that would allow families, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to petition courts to remove guns from those judged to be an imminent threat to themselves or others.

Michigan now joins more than a dozen other States to implement red flag laws, sometimes known as extreme risk protection orders.

Our State has been rocked by each gun death earlier this year: a mass shooting at Michigan State, as well as at the end of 2021, a mass shooting at Oxford High School.

Moms Demand Action, and so many others in our community, for gun safety, the number one killer of children in the United States of America. I am so pleased to see Michigan take this step.

#### CELEBRATING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YWCA OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the history of the capital region of New York that I represent, the 135th anniversary of the YWCA of Northeastern New York.

From humble beginnings in 1888, this organization has grown into a force in our community: transforming countless lives and promoting empowerment, racial equality, and social justice in Schenectady and well beyond.

For many years, the YWCA has stepped up to provide vital services and resources for women and families in need, from affordable housing and childcare to job training and counseling services.

Beyond that, the YWCA has long been a platform for the voices of women, nurturing future leaders, and empowering individuals to stand up for their own rights and the rights of others.

Through its commitment to eliminating racism, it has fostered understanding and built bridges of solidarity across our diverse community.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, let us reflect on the tremendous legacy of the YWCA of Northeastern New York.

Let us honor its accomplishments, and most importantly, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of justice, equity, and empowerment embodied by the YWCA.

Congratulations on this milestone, and here is to another 135 years of transforming lives, strengthening communities, and building a brighter future for each and every one.

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#### LET'S SAVE OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have a serious challenge in this country, a challenge that requires us to act with broadness, swiftness, and, of course, understanding.

I rise today to introduce legislation, the Comprehensive Response to Fentanyl-Related Substances and Fentanyl-Laced Substances Act.

Mr. Speaker, 8.4 million fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills exist. The seizures were directly linked to at least 39 overdose deaths. Between 2019 and 2021, more than 2,200 adolescents overdosed. Ninety-six percent of them were between the ages of 15 and 19. This legislation will look that squarely in the eye and demand that it cease and desist.

We need to increase funding for prevention and treatment programs, programs that provide education and treatment for people who are at risk. Get them while they are subject to being enticed. We need more school-based programs and community-outreach programs. We need to expand access to naloxone, the medication that can reverse the effects, which should be in all schools. We need to crack down on trafficking the little pink pills.

Mr. Speaker, we have to save our children, and we have to save them now. Join Congresswoman JACKSON LEE and my original cosponsors to support this legislation, the Comprehensive Response to Fentanyl-Related Substances and Fentanyl-Laced Substances Act. Let's save our children.

#### CBC HONORS AMERICA'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor the CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on Black veterans and their contributions to America, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), the honorable chairman of the CBC.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her tremendous leadership in serving as co-chair not just for tonight's Special Order hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, but every time that Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Representative JONATHAN JACKSON are able to lead in this time.



Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to thank and recognize our Active-Duty servicemen and service-women and to honor Black veterans from around the Nation, those who have returned to civilian life and those who are serving here in Congress. I also thank all of their families who also serve alongside them in the freedoms that we hold dear. I rise today to honor them for their service, their patriotism, their courage, and, of course, their sacrifice in keeping our Nation safe and free.

Unfortunately, the stories of Black veterans are too often untold. Even now, the very history of their service is under threat of being taken out of our schools. It is important that we never forget the unique history and contribution of our Nation's Black veterans, like the Tuskegee Airmen, and we cannot ignore inequities Black veterans have faced over generations, like being denied benefits in the GI Bill following World War II, something that our assistant Democratic leader, Mr. CLYBURN, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus are working to address.

Black veterans account for nearly a third of our Nation's unhoused veteran population, and Black veterans are nearly two times as likely to live in poverty.

As a Congress, we must fulfill our responsibility to repay our veterans for their service, including to the Black servicemen and servicewomen who are still making contributions to our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few veterans from Nevada's Fourth Congressional District who represent the best that Nevada and our country have to offer whose stories I will share.

One of those constituents was a servicemember named Kelley. Toward the end of her service in the Air Force, Kelley's health began to deteriorate. After consulting with doctors, she was diagnosed with untreated fibroids, which caused her immense pain and forced her to rely on pain medications.

In the early years, there were no women's clinics and Kelley had only male doctors attending to her care. However, the VA's renewed focus on addressing the unique needs of women veterans means there is now a safe space where Kelley can feel comfortable alongside fellow women veterans who share similar experiences.

Christina is another Black woman from my district who was in the Air Force. She served from 2002 until her medical retirement in 2008. Tragically, during her service, she fell victim to sexual assault, which caused her immense trauma and impacted her mental health.

After leaving the military, she grasped her need for help and turned to the VA, where she engaged with programs such as cognitive behavior therapy, cognitive processing therapy, and dialectical behavior therapy. She was

set on a path to recovery which affirmed her strength. Her story serves as a reminder that we must ensure that we provide the support and the resources our servicemembers need.

I was recently honored to help document the story of the Montford Point marines through an interview with Henry Franklin Jackson and the family of Isaac McMickens. They were among the first Black Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps, and they trained at Montford Point. By preserving their stories for generations to come, we can ensure that we honor their sacrifices.

We will never be able to fully repay our veterans, given the sacrifices that they have made for our country; but as a Congress, we can make sure that we do all that we can to ensure that they have what they need when they return home.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of the challenges that our veterans face that I was so proud to support the PACT Act, which is one of the most significant expansions of benefits and services for toxic-exposed veterans in more than 30 years. This historic piece of legislation is helping to deliver more timely benefits and services to more than 5 million veterans, including thousands from Nevada, who were impacted by toxic exposures while serving our country.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus for their commitment to supporting our Nation's veterans, for recognizing the role Black veterans play in American history, and for sharing stories of veterans in their districts.

I thank our CBC colleagues who were able to join us for this important topic tonight and to our co-chairs for their extraordinary leadership and managing this Special Order hour.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida and the gentleman from Illinois, and I join Mr. HORSFORD in expressing my appreciation to them both for their continuing leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is a particularly important Special Order, honoring our veterans far and wide; and then telling the stories of our Black veterans, who often have been at the wrong end of the history of this country.

It should be noted that African Americans, some enslaved, have fought in every war since the Revolutionary War, and it is extremely important to recognize that sometimes their stories have not been told.

I was very pleased today to support the legislation that supported a veterans' COLA, cost of living increase. As I indicated previously, we all know that veterans have been victims of homelessness, been discriminated against in terms of not being appreciated for their service, taking their service where they are commanding

thousands and giving them an entry-level job. I think it is important that we recognize the importance of their work.

We also know that there have been many who have had service-related injuries who have not been fully compensated. We continue to fight for those who have had exposure to Agent Orange. Certainly, we are more than excited about the passage of the PACT Act brought in the House, where I introduced the Jackson Lee amendment, which would require a report on the feasibility of modifying the individual longitudinal exposure record. That act, of course, even without changes, was, in fact, to add to providing protection to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I emphasize the stories of veterans who have fought and who have been in every war, and that includes the wars of the 1800s, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

I acknowledge our friend and colleague, the Honorable Charlie Rangel, who was a Korean war vet in the worst of time, and the coldest of time, and an ugly war. He reminded us during his tenure here that the Korean war was not a conflict. It was, in fact, a war.

We honor the generals who fought in World War II and who still came home to a segregated America, and we must remember those individuals, some who fell out of the skies in World War I and World War II.

We have come full circle. There were 50,000 who died in the Vietnam war, with large numbers of African Americans who lost their lives. General Colin Powell fought in that war. He was wounded, and I pay tribute to him tonight. He ultimately became the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and, as well, ultimately Secretary of State. He had a passion for peace. He believed in peace. Though he was a warrior and a combat leader, he understood the value of peace. We thank him for his service.

My own constituent, Sergeant Williams, he is a Buffalo soldier who fought in the Vietnam war, who lives today exhibiting the bravery of that time. I thank him for his service.

Now we have come full circle in Iraq and Afghanistan, where many African-American men and women rose to the ranks of lieutenant and major. Globally, I thank them. There are many of them who served in my congressional district.

This is an important moment, as we approach the Memorial Day weekend, for those who wore the uniform unselfishly and then lost their lives.

Also, as I supported this COLA increase for our veterans, I remind everyone that there are many homeless veterans, many of whom are Black. I particularly say to them that their status today does not diminish their bravery and service to this Nation.

It should be our commitment that we should not leave any veteran behind and not any veteran homeless. That

will be my commitment, that we continue to fight against that scourge of homeless veterans who want to be reunited with their family members who are in need of the services that will make them whole.

Finally, let me say this: As this Nation deals with default, we cannot forget the veterans who will lose 30 million healthcare appointments and will, in fact, suffer and not have a COLA. Remember what happens when there is no bipartisan effort, and our friends continue to insist on hostage taking. The people who lose out will be the people who are, in fact, our very special veterans. I thank the CBC for honoring our veterans in this way.

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Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for affording me this time.

I am very pleased to join with all of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to honor the veterans, African-American, Black veterans, who have served this country so honorably.

We could talk all night about the contributions that have been made, the sacrifices that have been made, and we take this time to point out not only the contributions but individuals who have played an important role as Blacks in the military.

First, I would share that, in 1994, I introduced legislation, H.R. 3013, to create the Center for Women's Veterans. That bill became law under Sonny Montgomery, who was the chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs at that time. I think that overall bill was the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act.

I am very pleased that that center has paid attention to some of the concerns that we have had about the treatment of women, Black women in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize someone from my district, an extraordinary woman who happens to be a veteran.

Patricia Jackson-Kelley is a military veteran of the United States Air Force and United States Army and Navy Reserves, having served our Nation collectively for 26 years, where she rose to the top rank of lieutenant colonel after serving honorably on both Active Duty and in the Reserves.

Lieutenant Colonel Jackson-Kelley recently completed a 4-year impressive term as the national president of the National Association of Black Military Women, with chapters across the United States.

While serving our Nation in the Armed Forces and post-service, Lieutenant Colonel Jackson-Kelley served as the program manager for a 40-bed substance abuse ward and as the women veteran program manager with the Department of Veterans Affairs, West Los Angeles.

During her term on executive staff, she was instrumental in implementing

programs, and she increased funds and resources for women veterans. During her time at the veterans hospital, she also served as one of the initial board members during the inaugural formation of U.S. VETS.

Patricia Jackson-Kelley is also a commissioner for the County of Los Angeles, Second District, Military and Veteran Affairs, and commander for The American Legion Jackie Robinson 252 Post.

Most recently, she was appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention Task Force Working Group, covering national concerns and issues.

Lieutenant Colonel Jackson-Kelley has received awards and commendations from President George Bush, the California Governor's Office 2006 to 2009, NAACP, Blacks in Government, and many top community organizations.

In 2010, she was selected as Southern California Women Veteran of the Year by the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and she was the inaugural recipient of the PFC Gladys Schuster Trailblazer Award in August 2012.

Jackson-Kelley was recognized by former Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald for her service on the National Center for Minority Veterans committee from 2015 to 2017.

In 2017, Lieutenant Colonel Jackson-Kelley was awarded the Lifetime Legacy Award by Connected Women of Influence.

In 2018, she received the Crystal Eagle Award from Los Angeles County African American Employees Association. Also in 2018, Lieutenant Colonel Jackson-Kelley was honored with the Holean Community Development Corporation Quiet Champion Award, the City of Los Angeles Hall of Fame Award, and was named UCLA Veteran of the Year.

In 2019, she was the Hollywood Business and Professional Women Black History Month honoree.

Lieutenant Colonel Jackson-Kelley was one of the honorees of the National Daughters of the American Revolution Women in American History, 2021 to 2022.

On August 20, 2022, she received the prestigious African Focus Goodwill Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, I highlight that she is one of many African-American women who have served this country honorably, and she deserves to be recognized.

This evening, I hope that by giving her this recognition, she will understand that we appreciate her so very much.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yield-

ing me the time. I also thank Representative CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Representative JACKSON for hosting this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that as a member of a family whose relatives and brothers and dad and uncles have served in the service, Memorial Day weekend is very important to me.

As our Nation prepares to celebrate this Memorial Day, I am so pleased to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus on the floor to recall the great sacrifice of all that we ask of those who put on the uniform.

Memorial Day is a stark reminder of the cost of that service and the sacrifice that comes with taking that oath. There are few other callings in life as humble or as selfless as the sacrifice of a member of the military. We owe them so much.

Because of this sacrifice, this distinguished body is able to gather today, tomorrow, and the next day under the "E pluribus unum" in this Chamber. Because of their sacrifices, there are so many more who are inspired to put on the uniform and will do so in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, while Memorial Day reminds us to celebrate those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, Memorial Day also urges us to do something active for those veterans that are serving now, that are standing up for our freedoms and liberties. I am so tremendously proud of the work that House Democrats have done to continue in this regard—efforts like the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, the Honoring our PACT Act, that is being aggressively implemented by the administration to ensure it fulfills a promise to provide generations of veterans with the care and benefits that they have earned and deserve.

This new law creates a strong framework for expanding and extending eligibility for VA healthcare for veterans exposed to toxic substances during their time in uniform. For too long, Mr. Speaker, veterans have had to fight just to get benefits that they earned for exposure to some dangerous toxins while they were in uniform.

More than 3.3 million veterans have received the new toxic exposure screening set up by this new law, and I am grateful that while many of them have passed on, those who are alive will get some remuneration for their suffering.

On this day, I especially want to remember other veterans who did not necessarily die in combat but died even so as a result of their service—someone like my constituent Corey Adams.

Corey Adams wanted to serve his country and follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, so he joined the Air Force right after high school. This week, I intend to introduce a bill named after him.

Corey served 4 years on Active Duty, and then he joined the Air Force Reserve. He had overseas deployment, including 6 months in Afghanistan in 2009.

Sergeant Corey Adams was later diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and moved into his parents' home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a very fragile veteran.

On March 20, 2017, the Adams family was changed forever. Sergeant Corey Adams was missing, and they knew he was vulnerable. His family tried to file a missing report soon after he went missing. It took 8 days before the police determined that he met the criteria of a missing person, a crucial delay.

Mr. Speaker, 18 days after his disappearance, Sergeant Corey Adams' body was found in a pond and recovered from Dineen Park, 1 mile from his mother's home. Last month marked the sixth year since his body was found.

Mr. Speaker, no family should suffer like this. Out of this tragedy, his family took action and went to the Wisconsin Legislature. Therefore, due to their advocacy, Wisconsin became the first State to enact a green alert system to find veterans who are reported missing. That system has already worked to help successfully locate missing veterans.

Delaware, Tennessee, and Texas have since enacted laws to do the same, and other States are currently looking to do the same.

The legislation that I will be introducing this week in his honor will help establish a national program at the Department of Justice to help create a strong and robust green alert network across our country to help ensure that when a veteran goes missing, we do all we can to find them. We will leave no soldier behind.

With legislation like the Corey Adams Searchlight Act, the Honoring our PACT Act, and so many other thoughtful bills that have been introduced so far by my colleagues in this Congress, we make sure that Memorial Day is also a time to act and to make sure that we enact policies that make clear to our veterans and our servicemembers that we will always have their backs—always.

Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every one of the men and women in uniform today and all of our veterans.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for the opportunity to speak tonight in this Special Order, and the gentleman from Illinois, for showing great leadership in what is a wholesome and honorable responsibility to lead these Special Order hours.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our fallen African-American veterans in the week before Memorial Day and discuss what the Honoring our PACT Act will do to help all surviving veterans.

Almost 200,000 Black Americans died while fighting to protect U.S. free-

doms. They fought in every major U.S. conflict, from the Revolutionary War to the Iraq war. In fact, the first person to die in the Revolutionary War, our war for freedom, was Crispus Attucks, an African American.

The names of the regiments are emblazoned in American history, names like the Buffalo Soldiers, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the Harlem Hellfighters. In my district, they continue to make a difference in local industry and local politics.

Black soldiers are America's forgotten heroes. They fought in foreign wars to protect our Nation, then they fought oppression, racism, and hatred when they returned home—not welcomed in the restaurants, not welcomed in the hotels, not welcomed to drink from certain fountains, but fought far and wide away from this Nation.

They deserve more than the usual “thanks for your service” they receive across the country, and I am proud to support a law that helps them get more support.

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The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, or the Honoring our PACT Act, could be the largest veterans' healthcare and benefits expansion in American history.

The Honoring our PACT Act expands and extends eligibility for Veterans Administration healthcare to veterans who have suffered toxic exposure, and it does the same for veterans of the Vietnam war, Gulf war, and other post-9/11 conflicts that we have engaged in. That means five million veterans could be eligible for benefits, thanks to this act.

Also, the Honoring our PACT Act adds more than 20 health conditions to the list of eligibility for VA health benefits, such as exposure to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxins. It requires the VA to provide toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in the VA healthcare system.

But local veterans and advocates are excited about more than these benefits. They are telling district veterans that the Honoring our PACT Act will allow them to get physicals in order to find service-related ailments and disabilities. These physicals could allow more eligible veterans to enroll in VA healthcare and help them register as an American veteran for health-related or other benefits nationwide.

But the VA has to do a better job in contacting veterans to encourage them to participate. Some veterans in my district said the VA has a version of the notorious don't ask, don't tell policy. They say, if you don't ask the VA about the benefits directly, they won't let you know, and that seems to be a theme that runs across the Federal Government.

There are so many projects and plans and opportunities for people across this Nation, just everyday, normal Americans, but if you don't know the right

question to ask, the information is not forthcoming.

Now, nobody will mislead you, but you have to ask the right question and then they are forthcoming with the information. That has to change.

As we honor our Nation's fallen heroes, we must do more to support veterans and other American heroes. That way, our dedication to the men and women who protect our country and keep us safe will be more than words. It will be a direct action. I am just delighted to be here to raise this issue.

There shouldn't have to be an acknowledgment separately of African-American veterans, but this country, in some ways, has forgotten them and so we have to raise the issue. We don't want it. We want to be a part of the collective of this great Nation, but there are so many instances where the contributions of this population are left out. So we are here to make sure it is clear, and to correct the history.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Nation's brave Black servicemembers. I rise not only for our veterans who served our Nation with honor and integrity, but also for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

Black soldiers have fought and given their lives in every American conflict since the Revolutionary War fighting for democracy at home and abroad, while being treated like second-class citizens on American soil.

In 1944, this very body passed the GI Bill to provide free education, unemployment pay, and home loans for millions of veterans returning from World War II. These benefits helped to expand our American middle class after the war, but Black veterans were excluded from these benefits due to our Nation's original sin.

This exclusion helped to widen the already existing wealth gap between White and Black Americans, the same gap that we feel and see today. The wide disparity in the bill's implementation increased wealth, education, and civil rights gaps. The inequitable implementation of the GI bill shut the door for 1.2 million Black people, veterans who bravely served the country during World War II in segregated ranks.

The willingness on the part of African-American soldiers to serve and sacrifice their lives for a country that treated them as second-class citizens is beyond remarkable. It wasn't until President Truman's executive order 9981 that the Armed Services were forced to desegregate, but by this time the damage had already been done.

In the South, the GI bill exacerbated rather than narrowed the economic educational attainment of Black veterans. After World War II, Black veterans who wanted to attend college in the South were restricted in their choices of about 100 public and private institutions. Only 6 percent of African-American veterans of World War II earned college degrees, compared to 19 percent of White veterans.

For over 200 years, Black soldiers have endured individual and institutional racism while fighting for their country. It is time to honor every Black veteran and soldier who paid the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for a more perfect union at home. May their memory be a blessing, and may this Congress rectify injustices committed on this very floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleagues, the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and the Honorable GWEN MOORE for their comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special consideration to the contributions and bravery of Black soldiers and veterans.

Veterans in this country deserve far more than we have thus far been willing to give them and, certainly, Black veterans are more than eligible for the kind of dignity and respect too long denied to them, both in and out of the armed services.

Let us never forget that, in several instances, the enemies of America were treated better than Black soldiers fighting for America. I remember my grandfather today, Charles Henry Jackson, who was working three jobs for a man in South Carolina who, after having been disrespected, told the man he could keep his jobs; although our family needed the money, needed the work so that we could feed the family.

The young man then went on to turn my grandfather into the Army recruiting office and had him enlisted, drafted into World War II.

Having fought in World War II and being honorably discharged he recounted the story for me when he came back from New York City, down on the train in first class, down to Union Station, not far from here. By the time they were heading down south to the Jim Crow era of the south, he had to go to the second class coach cars in the back of the train so that Nazi POW prisoners could sit in first class, right here in Washington, D.C., right here in America.

Let us never forget the kind of bigotry and hatred the Black soldiers had to endure simply because of the color of their skin.

It would be a tragedy of the worst kind for us to no longer remember the intrinsic, systemic evils that prevented African Americans from receiving equity in healthcare and the distribution of benefits, once again, simply because of the color of their skin.

There have always been gross inequities in how Black veterans have been treated and, regrettably, this has always been the case.

A recent internal document from the Department of Veterans Affairs obtained by NPR revealed that Black veterans are less likely to get approved for benefits associated with conditions like PTSD.

According to NPR, an internal report developed by the Veterans Administra-

tion found that Black veterans who filed claims for PTSD were rejected, on average, 12 percent more often than their White counterparts. Thankfully, the VA's equity task force has been alerted to this problem and is dedicated to making improvements.

This is not the first time Black veterans have been treated with indifference and disrespect. Black soldiers were never allowed to have full and unfettered access to the benefits enshrined to them in the GI bill.

In some cases, Black veterans could not take advantage of the GI bill simply because they were not granted an honorable discharge. In other cases, even when Black veterans properly qualified for the full range of benefits, they were denied them because of segregation and anti-integration policies.

In fact, one Congressman I researched in particular, Congressman John Rankin, a southern Dixiecrat, did everything in his power to exclude Black veterans from receiving the unemployment benefits enshrined in the bill. We were thick on words and thin on deeds.

When those benefits could not be legally denied in the legislation itself, local postmasters conspired in an effort not to deliver the forms Black veterans needed to fill out in order to receive their unemployment benefits.

In 1947, only 2 of the more than 3,200 VA guaranteed home loans in 13 Mississippi counties went to Black veterans. This was not just a southern problem. In New York and in the northern New Jersey suburbs, fewer than 100 of the 67,000 mortgages insured by the GI Bill supported the home purchases of African-American veterans. That is 100 out of 67,000. It means that less than .15 percent of the loans in that area went to Black veterans.

The list goes on and on. The kind of inequalities, inequities and indignities that Black soldiers and Black veterans have had to endure amount to a cacophony of slights, the full list of which I do not have the time to fully mention.

Yet, Black people have fought in every major war that this country has ever had because we are a brave and an honorable people. And when we fought, nobody was doing us a favor.

I will call the roll: from the Revolutionary War, to the Battle of 1812, to the Civil War, to the Spanish American War, to World War I, World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the war in Iraq, and the war in Afghanistan, Black people have always been willing to serve.

Today, we honor Black veterans because of their bravery and what they had to endure, and because of what they accomplished in spite of it all. We honor their sacrifices and their service. We honor their dignity and determination.

Without Black veterans, there could be no Colin Powell. Without Black veterans, there could be no Lloyd Austin. Without a long history of brave Black

veterans, there is no such thing as a Black Commander in Chief.

The Governor of Florida can act like Black history isn't important to America, but there would be no American history without Blacks in our history.

Our thoughts are with Black veterans today because history remembers the men and women who put their shoulders to the wheel of progress and push until one dies and another world is born.

We will never forget the contribution of Black veterans because they did what racism said could never be done. They proved to the world that Black people are as brave and innovative as anyone else. They proved to the world that when the game is fair, and the rules are public, and the playing field is even, Black people can do anything.

I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am proud to be a part of a caucus and a party that does more than just send thoughts and prayers to our veterans.

During the last Congress, under the leadership of the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, and the Honorable STENY HOYER, and the Honorable JIM CLYBURN, and our current leader, the honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democrats in the House of Representatives led the way to passing the Honoring our PACT Act. This important law expands VA healthcare benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

I am grateful to be a part of a party and an institution that continues to find ways to honor its commitments to our veterans. It should not have taken us this long to decide that if we expose the brave men and women of our armed services to toxic conditions, the least we could do is make sure they have access to all of the healthcare they need to recover.

From the Vietnam war to all of our post-9/11 conflicts, our soldiers have been exposed to all kinds of horrific substances and, yet we could not find the political will to dedicate specific resources to this particular aspect of modern war.

The devastating effects of dangerous toxins have been an albatross around the necks of our brave men and women for far too long.

□ 2015

But as the old saying goes, better late than never. Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who were part of the 117th Congress, were instrumental in the passing of this restorative law, and that is how I view the PACT Act.

This law widens the path that leads to greater restoration for the men and women we ask to risk their lives in defense of this country. This law deepens the validity of the promise we made as a country to these honorable soldiers. Call me a dreamer, but I just may happen to believe that when we ask people to do extraordinary things, it is altogether fitting that your response and our response collectively should be to

make sure that they are treated equally and in an extraordinary manner.

We can simply never do enough for our veterans. We love our soldiers, but we turn our backs far too often on our veterans. It is with the best of intentions that we call on the Veterans Administration to make sure that Black veterans are not excluded from the important care and restoration they need afforded to them in the PACT Act.

We call on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough, to personally commit his attention and time to making sure that none of the past injustices and disparities reveal themselves in the practical application of this law.

I must say to all my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and my fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus who were members of the 117th Congress, on behalf of all of the veterans, and particularly of all the Black veterans, who make their home in the First Congressional District of the State of Illinois, I extend to you my most sincere gratitude for your hard work in making this law a reality.

Millions of people will be positively affected by what you have accomplished. Millions of people find relief and some measure of restoration because of what you have done in the 117th Congress. Millions of veterans will be able to sleep a little sounder at night from the care that they receive because of what you did in the passing of this law. Future veterans will owe much of the improvements we will make in taking care of them to all of you.

Well done, good and faithful servants. You have honored this country by caring about the people of this country and nothing is greater than that.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 14 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise, again, today to be the voice of Black men and women who have selflessly dedicated their lives to the country, but now find themselves on the street.

These veterans represent the heart and soul of our Nation, serving a country that did not always serve them, and yet we are failing to help them again. Homelessness is felt acutely by Black veterans. Black individuals made up around 12 percent of Active-Duty military personnel in 2018 but were 33 percent of the homeless veteran population.

Throughout the pandemic, the VA reduced veteran homelessness by 11 percent and permanently housed over 40,000 veterans. This decrease can be directly attributed to the flexibilities that were found because of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, but now with the PHE having ended, many veterans may soon find themselves out on the street.

Unfortunately, Republicans decided to vote against my proposal, H.R. 645, the Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act, which would have helped put roofs over veterans' heads. It is shameful.

Our brave veterans willingly stepped into the line of fire and accepted the looming shadow of danger all to safeguard our cherished liberties. To honor that sacrifice, it is our duty as a Nation and as Members of Congress to ensure they return home to a Nation that provides opportunities for them and their families.

We must equip our VA with the necessary tools to directly engage with and provide care for Black veterans grappling with housing insecurity. This isn't a partisan issue.

For each day that we, as Congress, fail to authorize and address veterans' homelessness, we condemn another veteran to a night of needless suffering on the street. The time to act is now. For every night delayed is a night too long for those who have worn our Nation's uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues from across the aisle to work with House Democrats so we may serve those who served us. A Nation's greatness is not measured by its military might or its economic power but by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens, especially those who have served our country so bravely.

My Democratic colleagues and I will not leave our veterans behind on this very soil they volunteered to protect and defend. As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and ranking member of the Subcommittee for Modernization, I ask all of us to think about this Memorial Day not in the same reference, but to pledge ourselves to do more for our veterans and to ensure that they are not living in homelessness or housing insecurities and that they are having access to their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, again, today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving our great Nation. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I pledge to fight for our veterans from all walks of life. Their stories of courage, resilience, and commitment demonstrate a legacy of service and sacrifice.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, post-9/11 veterans are becoming more and more diverse than previous generations. Today, women represent a remarkable 17 percent, while African Americans make up 15.3 percent of our current veteran population. We recognize the trailblazers who have not only served our Nation, but also enriched the diversity of our Armed Forces.

I am fortunate to count among my constituents many such heroes. One of Florida's 20th Congressional District heroes is Ms. Shenetria Moore, a resident of West Palm Beach. A United States Army veteran, Ms. Moore is a beacon of self-discipline and leads a life guided by her deeply-held principles.

Ms. Moore graduated with a diploma from the prestigious Academy of Health Science at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and was later honored with an Army accommodation award by her commanding officer.

Once retired from Active Duty, she continued to serve by launching a non-profit, Sha's Community Initiative, Inc., which provides mentorship and scholarships for young Black men. Ms. Moore's service-oriented philosophy has its roots in her family military experience.

Today, as a proud veteran and a dedicated community advocate, she continues to serve with the same excellence she displayed while she was in uniform. I thank Ms. Moore for her service to this great Nation and to Florida's 20th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my father-in-law, Corlie McCormick, Sr., who is no longer with us, who served as a Vietnam vet.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### 2023 SPECIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, you probably didn't know this, but 50 years ago, President Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act into law, which was designed to do two very important things: Prevent species from going extinct and promoting their recovery.

Mr. Speaker, since then, hundreds of plants and animals have joined the endangered or threatened species list, spurring conservation and recovery efforts at all levels of government. While well-intentioned, this law, unfortunately, has been abused and twisted so much that it doesn't even begin to achieve its goals. In short, it is a failure.

Although there have been some successes in the past 50 years, only 72 of the 1,389 listed species have been recovered and removed from the list. That is a 5 percent success rate. Only in the Federal Government would anyone consider 5 percent a passing grade.

The Congressional Western Caucus has long advocated for improvements to modernize the ESA and make it more effective for our species and more transparent for the American people.

We have advocated on behalf of the rural communities that we represent

who are severely impacted by ESA listing decisions and who, in many cases, are working in collaboration with private landowners, community groups, tribes, local governments to promote successful species recovery and land conservation. We have advocated to administration after administration to follow the science and fulfill the congressional intent of the law which is to promote recovery of these species and remove them from the endangered species list.

That is why I am really proud, Mr. Speaker, to host this Special Order tonight where you will hear from my Western Caucus colleagues about successful, locally-led recovery efforts that are taking place across this country, about the need for conservation, not just preservation, of our species, the different impacts that ESA listing decisions have on local communities and economies, and some of the legislative reforms that are needed to finally bring the ESA into the 21st century.

As we have seen over the past 50 years, ESA has become a weapon used by extreme environmentalists and by serial litigators to slow or halt critical economic development and land management projects in rural communities throughout the United States.

From preventing the restoration of our forests to creating excessively burdensome roadblocks to domestic energy development, the ESA used in this way actually can do more harm than good.

These combative environmental groups use the ESA to drive a political wedge to achieve their true ambition, the end of ranching, the end of resource development, and the end of timber harvest on public lands. It is not just a western or a public lands issue.

There are approximately 1.3 billion acres of private land in the United States and 926 of the currently listed species are on those private lands, which means cooperation with these communities and these landowners is essential. It is crucial for recovery.

Unfortunately, ESA regulations often negatively affect the very people we need as conservation partners through land use restrictions, through reduced property values, and costly permitting requirements. In effect, the law literally makes enemies out of the people most critical to the species recovery.

We must empower our local, our State, and our Tribal partners to collaborate on comprehensive recovery and conservation efforts, and we understand more stringent regulations will not lead to more successful species recovery.

In rural America, we value the responsible management of species, but we have to do so in a way that does not destroy our economies, that does not decimate our lands, or leave our communities vulnerable to natural disasters.

We need flexible tools, not tools that are one-size-fits-all regulations that

come out of the Federal Government, to be successful in our shared goal of recovery of our Nation's endangered species and threatened species.

Tonight, as we always do, we are here to raise the voices of rural communities across this country, and tonight we are focused on those voices that are telling us how they have been impacted by the ESA and make their message heard.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

□ 2030

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the great State of Washington for giving me this opportunity and giving the people back home this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the communities and the residents of west central Indiana to share our experience with the Endangered Species Act.

As an animal scientist and a farmer, I am a lifelong conservationist. I value the well-intended effort of the ESA to protect and conserve our Nation's most iconic species that really define our landscapes and have shaped our heritage.

Unfortunately, I believe the ESA has failed to achieve the underlying mission, and many of my constituents have been forced to experience the consequences firsthand.

Lakes Freeman and Shafer near Monticello, Indiana, have been a proper and appropriate tourist destination—home to many small businesses and attractions, and a vibrant local economy. A series of droughts and a tangle of bureaucratic red tape involving ESA devastated our once-thriving community.

Following a listing more than a decade ago of mussels on the endangered species list found in the Tippecanoe River, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service subsequently ordered a new higher volume of water to flow out of the Oakdale Dam that forms Lake Freeman, in an effort to preserve these now protected mussels.

This executive action by unelected bureaucrats became a death knell to the community and surrounding area. Businesses like the Tall Timbers Marina or The Madam Carroll cruise boat reported catastrophic losses of revenue. Homeowners along the lake reported ruined seawalls, dried up wells, and poor resale values.

The ESA not only failed to save the endangered population of mussels that sparked this misguided intervention—the mussels likely died from bacterial overload created by reducing a 1500-acre lake to a puddle—but also claimed the lives of other wildlife in the area that died from the inhospitable conditions created by this rulemaking.

What happened in my district was an unmitigated disaster with antiquated Federal policies providing little resources for the community nearly leveled by its outstanding and outdated regulations.

After 50 years, it is time to modernize the law—to fix the broken parts, to make it better serve its intended purpose, and to allow for responsible solutions to disasters like Lake Freeman.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for relating some of the impacts that he sees in his State. You don't have to be in the Western United States to be negatively impacted by some of the things that are in the ESA that need updating. I thank him for relating that.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and I am glad he is pointing that out.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), one of the vice chairs of the Western Caucus, a gentleman that represents another Midwestern State. I thank him for being here tonight.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker I thank the chairman for hosting this discussion on the ESA tonight, it could not be more timely to deal with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago the Endangered Species Act was created to protect endangered species by taking actions to put them on the road to recovery. Unfortunately, the Endangered Species Act has become a statutory "Hotel California" where radical environmental groups and judges check animals into the endangered species list, but they may never leave.

In fact, over the last 50 years, out of the 1,389 listed species, only 72 have been recovered and removed from the list, as the chairman so eloquently stated in his opening remarks—a 5 percent recovery rate.

Let me be clear, you endanger the Endangered Species Act when you do not remove species that have recovered. As everyone in Wisconsin knows, this is something we have seen far too often as it relates to the gray wolf.

When Federal protections were established for wolves in the Great Lakes region, population levels were in the hundreds. Now there are well over 4,000 in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Most recently, a California activist judge unilaterally put the gray wolf back on the Endangered Species Act list despite its recovery. The judge's decision went against the 26 scientists—beside me here—that have urged for the gray wolf to be removed from the ESA since 2015.

Here they are. There are 26 eminent wildlife biologists that nearly a decade ago said to a judge here in Washington D.C., you are making a mistake re-listing the wolf. Let's allow management by the States where they can be most effectively managed.

The data is clear, we have waited long enough. Congress must pass my bill that I introduced alongside Congresswoman LAUREN BOEBERT. The Trust the Science Act would delist gray wolves in the lower 48 United States and would preclude any future re-listing mischief by activist judges.

When a species is removed from the ESA list, it is something we should celebrate. It is a success story. When a



species has recovered, it enables us to use our limited time and resources to concentrate our efforts to protect and recover other species that truly are under threat or at risk of extinction.

Over the last 50 years, the Endangered Species Act has failed to be a celebration of recovery, and instead, a political weapon. It is past time we change that and turned the Endangered Species Act into something all Americans can celebrate—endangered species success stories.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TIFFANY. You are absolutely right. In the ESA there have been some success stories and we need to learn to celebrate them. More important, the resources that are being used in successfully recovering those species could then be turned to other resources that desperately need the help.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), one of the young Members of the House of Representatives and a friend of mine.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act was a well-intentioned effort to protect the species we are at risk of losing. Unfortunately, the ESA has been hijacked by extreme environmentalists who have weaponized the law, especially in California.

Central Valley families and farmers have seen the negative impacts of heavy-handed and misguided regulations that put fish ahead of our families and our farms.

During dry years, the very limited amount of water available is consistently flushed out to the ocean to protect the delta smelt and other endangered species.

While this precious resource was going out to the Pacific, thousands of acres of farmland were fallowed. This has devastating consequences for the people I represent and the livelihoods that depend on agriculture.

This is something that is important for us to address and talk a little bit about, because when the water goes out to the ocean, obviously we are not taking any of that surface water, and it has an impact on our below-ground water and our aquifers.

These past few years, we have had a huge number of wells fail. In agriculture, you drive around the countryside, and I know a lot of people at home probably see this, where you will see wells pulled out of the ground, the pipes stacked, and they clean them. Two days ago, I was driving around the valley, and there was a situation where there was a pile of sand around this well, and it was obvious the well had failed.

What is really devastating is I have communities all across the valley, and in just working with one nonprofit, there were at least 2,000, either homes or communities, where they had actual tanks put in because the wells had failed and there was going to be no clean water for these people at home,

so they put in tanks and pumps, and they were trucking water to these people so they could have water in their faucets.

This was happening all across the valley. When we talk about the devastating impact it has on our communities, this was something that was at their faucets. It was really frustrating these past few years when you talk to folks and we have to say, well, we can build projects, but we can't build water infrastructure projects. We have had projects that they have been working on for the last 30 years, a simple expansion of an existing well or existing reservoir. We have got a reservoir, like Sites Reservoir, they have been talking about for six decades and have never been able to break ground on that.

When out talking to folks around the district, farmworkers specifically in some of these communities that struggle most with these wells, the conversation they brought up was they can expedite the permitting process for a project like the high-speed rail and you see the project being built, but they can't do anything for water infrastructure.

It is frustrating because a lot of these folks rely on agriculture to make ends meet. Then they go out and see fields being fallowed, they see the land pulled out of production, and it is less work for them, less ability for them to provide for their families. This is something that should be an easy one, but it is regulations like the ESA that put us at such a disadvantage.

Back to my script.

To add insult to injury, many of the actions taken to protect these fish have not been effective. The population of many of our listed species, including the delta smelt, are now worse off than they were before.

Then you look at the situation we find ourselves in today. Whole communities are on the verge of being under water because environmental regulations have prevented these same reservoirs, that we desperately need, from being built that would actually help us prevent some of the flooding that we are dealing with.

Now, we have more than enough water to provide our farms, communities, and homes with water for years to come and nowhere to store it.

Indefinite listing of species allows activists to abuse the ESA, preventing the construction of critical water storage projects and resulting in millions of acre-feet of water being flushed out to the Pacific Ocean.

The needs of the Central Valley are consistently put last, thanks to the abuse of environmental regulations like the ESA. We must work together to reform the Endangered Species Act to strike a more reasonable balance between protecting our environment and common sense.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I thank the junior member of the Appropriations Committee and chairman of the Western Caucus, Mr. NEWHOUSE.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, he had to go there. I thank Mr. VALADAO for his words. Sometimes going off script is dangerous at times, but I think he made a really good point about right now in California, there is an abundance of water, so much so that some communities are flooding.

If we could just store that water, then we would not have to idle all of that farmland that I hear is being set aside because there is not enough water to irrigate. Communities wouldn't be struggling. We need the food that California produces as a country. That is important to us. These are the things that are not just affecting people in California but the whole country.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Washington probably knows this, but it is important to highlight the fact that California is the number one agriculture State in the country.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. VALADAO's time has expired, but he makes some really good points, and I appreciate that. Since he is a young man, I am always amazed at how much he has picked up in a short amount of time here.

Next, I turn to someone that has really impressed with her knowledge of natural resource issues, not just in her home State but throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week the Endangered Species Act turns 50. It is an act that was initially created to ensure the health of fish, wildlife, and vegetation and to protect species that are either threatened or endangered as defined by the act.

The fact is that the Endangered Species Act would and could work if it were implemented as intended—to recover actually threatened or endangered species. It has instead become a business in and of itself, with an entire economy built around endless studies, monitoring, fieldwork, and lawsuits. Bureaucrats spend their entire careers trying to prevent species from being delisted—as to keep them on the list ensures job security.

The Endangered Species Act has had profound impacts on my State of Wyoming by limiting economic development and restricting the implementation of reasonable and effective land, water, and resource management and use.

It doesn't have to be that way. Under the ESA, once the recovery goals for a species have been met, the species should be delisted. That, however, is not what happens. Instead, and regardless of the actual status of the species, it can take decades to delist a recovered species.

The Canadian gray wolves are a classic example. They were introduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 with a recovery goal for the greater Yellowstone area being 100 wolves. We met that goal in 2002.



□ 2045

It then took multiple lawsuits and 15 years to have them actually delisted, which finally happened in 2017, as ordered by the circuit court of appeals. The environmental groups fought against delisting, despite the fact that Wyoming's wolf management plan was approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service and has since proven successful in maintaining the wolf population well in excess of recovery goals.

The Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear is another example. The State of Wyoming has spent over \$59 million on recovery and has an excellent management plan in place to ensure a recovered population will continue to be protected. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the grizzly population has exceeded recovery goals for the past 20 years.

Yet, again, environmental groups have been able to keep the grizzly bear listed through petitioning activist judges to intervene. The proliferation of bears in Wyoming is so great that they now pose a serious and deadly threat to people, livestock, and other wildlife in my State.

I am thankful to my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee for their support on H.R. 1245, my legislation to delist the Greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears, and I look forward to passing it out of the House soon.

By continuing to spend limited resources on recovered populations of species, we are deflecting resources from where they should be focused. We are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

In short, as implemented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and as enforced by activist courts, success is not in recovering a legitimately threatened or endangered species but in ensuring that a recovered species, no matter how robust in number, range, and health, is never delisted.

A related problem is the fact that critical habitat designations are not designed to protect a particular species but to encompass as much area as possible so that the Federal Government and environmental groups can control ever-expanding swaths of land and water. The incentives under the ESA are the exact opposite of what they would actually be if species recovery rather than control were the actual goal.

The ESA has largely become a mechanism by which environmental groups have weaponized the Federal Government and courts to impose restrictions on the use of private property and limit our ability to use our energy and water resources while also receiving massive Federal subsidies through sue and settle actions.

This 50th anniversary of the ESA should be a time to reevaluate and refocus efforts on what the act was originally intended to do. We cannot continue to allow activist courts or agency bureaucrats to block sound species management or infringe on prop-

erty rights any longer. We must do better. We can do better, and I challenge this body to pursue ESA reform to focus on protecting our beautiful fisheries, wildlife, flora, and fauna.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have said it better. Resources are being used to keep the species on the list indefinitely.

We should be thinking about the good of the species and the success of the recovery of the species. Instead, we want to keep them on this list to be used for other reasons. That is what we have to get to the bottom of.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN). He is a dear friend. He is someone who came into Congress with me and has risen to the chair of the Natural Resources Committee and is doing just a great job. He is one of my star members of the Western Caucus.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman NEWHOUSE not only for his leadership here tonight in setting up the Special Order but also his leadership on the Western Caucus, which is a voice for us on not just Western issues but rural issues all across the country. I am honored to be a part of the Western Caucus even though I reside in Arkansas, which I do say at one time was the Western frontier.

Over its 50-year life, as has been discussed, ESA has gone from being a law geared toward recovering at-risk species through conservation and has now become a weapon to control land and activities through a misguided concept of preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we take a minute here and look at the difference between conservation and preservation.

Conservation, which the Endangered Species Act was built around, is the idea of being a good steward of the resources we have, of taking care of and tending to the habitat of these endangered species. It really is like being the gardener of the habitat.

Preservation is this idea that you can preserve something in the natural world, and you really can't do that. The way you preserve something that is living, Mr. Speaker, is, for instance, take a cucumber. You boil it in vinegar, and you preserve it as a pickle.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to say tonight is that conservation is for critters; preservation is for pickles. The Endangered Species Act, as it was written in 1973, was about conservation and taking care of these at-risk species.

I went back to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and I want to read here what the people who came before us set forth in Congress in the findings of the Endangered Species Act.

The very first finding was that "various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation."

They pulled that out in the very first of their findings.

It goes on to say: "The United States has pledged itself as a sovereign state in the international community to conserve to the extent practicable the various species of fish or wildlife and plants facing extinction."

Then look at the purpose of the Endangered Species Act, Mr. Speaker, and I quote directly here: "The purposes of this chapter are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section."

Our men and women who came before us knew that protecting endangered species was all about conservation.

The Endangered Species Act was actually passed as a call to action and conservation, but it has devolved into a weapon for stagnation and leverage for political activism.

The irony is that a misused ESA actually does more harm than good to the animals and plants that it was put in place to protect.

As chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, I have four guiding principles that form my priorities, and they are access, conservation, innovation, and transparency. In my view, the ESA falls short of all four.

The ESA often denies access to our public lands and negatively impacts private property rights. The ESA denies access.

The ESA fails at conservation, as has been mentioned many times here, as only a miniscule—less than 5 percent—of listed species have ever been delisted. It has already been brought out that the Endangered Species Act is a modern-day example of the "Hotel California." "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave."

In addition, the act disincentivizes innovation and private investment while at the same time lacks transparency.

We have cases of private landowners who are doing conservation and trying to take the actions necessary to help the habitat for species, and when those species get listed, it is always: "Hands off. Don't touch it. We are going to preserve it." That just doesn't work, and it is not ever going to work. The example is in the dismal recovery rate the way the ESA is being implemented.

We have made reforming the ESA a major part of the committee's business. If we wish to truly help threatened and endangered species, then we must strongly support science-based habitat management, and we cannot tolerate the weaponization of the ESA for political activism.

So far this Congress, the Natural Resources Committee has held two legislative hearings on bills that address

fundamental flaws with how the ESA is being implemented. These bills include three Congressional Review Act resolutions designed to provide oversight of Biden administration rulemakings that represent the true excesses of the ESA. Each of these CRA resolutions has been passed by the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan base.

In addition, three other bills heard by the committee deal with species that have long been recovered, the grizzly bear and the gray wolf, as have been mentioned. These species have been prevented from being delisted due to persistent litigation by activist groups. Even with Republican and Democratic administrations saying these species have been recovered, they are still on the list.

Following these hearings, the committee held a markup on April 27 that resulted in all six bills being reported favorably by the committee. I ask all of my colleagues to join in supporting these measures.

This is just the beginning. This Congress and the Natural Resources Committee will bring forth policies that promote transparency, science-based decisionmaking, flexibility, and voluntary conservation within the ESA.

It is my desire to have a hearing and, hopefully, a bipartisan markup on legislation to allow the restoration of America's wildlife habitat. Focusing on wildlife habitat restoration is definitely the ounce of prevention worth many pounds of cure when it comes to species recovery.

I look forward to working in partnership with Chairman NEWHOUSE and the Western Caucus to ensure that we continue to move the ball forward on bringing much-needed reform to the ESA. It has not been reauthorized in 50 years. Maybe we need to rewrite it and put it up for reauthorization.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman so much for his leadership.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WESTERMAN for his remarks.

How appropriate it is to look at the original language, the intent, to illustrate how far we have strayed from that mission. I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for those great words.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I turn to somebody who I visited in his district, and I think he knows firsthand just to what extent the ESA has been weaponized to stop some of the things that, as a country, we have to accomplish.

Mr. STAUBER from the great State of Minnesota happens to be one of the vice chairmen of the Congressional Western Caucus. I would love to hear what the gentleman has to say about this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the State of Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's leadership not only in the Western Caucus but his leadership on very important issues such as the Endangered Species Act. I appreciate his giving me the opportunity this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the gray wolf being fully recovered.

Gray wolves have never been extinct in Minnesota. We currently estimate our population at over 2,700 gray wolves, while the ESA recovery plan goal for our State is 1,400. In fact, Minnesota has more wolves than the rest of the lower 48 States combined.

The Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations, along with our very own Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, have all agreed: It is a scientific fact that the gray wolf has recovered.

On my chart here, Mr. Speaker, you can see clearly the gray wolf has recovered. The blue dotted line is the Federal recovery plan, and the green dotted line is the minimum in Minnesota to reinstitute a wolf hunt. The wolf population is way up at the top, well above each threshold, as you can see.

Unfortunately, radical activist groups have weaponized the Endangered Species Act to keep the gray wolf listed. This misguided effort is a clear danger to our deer herds, livestock, and beloved family pets across Minnesota.

We have the scientists, the know-how, and the experience to responsibly manage the gray wolf, including implementing a hunting and trapping season.

When wolves are above their ESA targets, which they clearly are, Federal bureaucrats—unelected Federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.—or judges in California should not be able to take away our management powers just because of their ideological views or because they want to give favors to radical activist groups. They should follow the science.

That is why I helped introduce the Trust the Science Act with my friend and colleague Representative BOEBERT to delist the wolf and exempt its delisting from judicial review.

It is well past time to, once and for all, delist the gray wolf and reinstitute a hunt in Minnesota as part of our local management. Let's get the Federal Government out of the way and properly allow our State managers to manage the gray wolf population.

Our way of life in northern Minnesota depends on it.

It is simply "sumbuncheous" to keep the gray wolf on the endangered species list. It has recovered. Let's trust the science.

□ 2100

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I couldn't agree more that the gray wolf in my State has recovered, as well. They are prolific animals. They are flexible. They are nomadic. We really should declare a victory that they have recovered and celebrate that success and then use those resources to focus on other species that need our attention.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and someone that knows, from his perspec-

tive, not only a lot about agriculture but a lot about the Endangered Species Act.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act was drafted with the best of intentions, but it has simply failed to live up to its noble mission.

Since the ESA was passed in 1973, only 3 percent of species protected by the law have recovered to the point where they can be delisted. This is an abysmal recovery rate.

Burdensome and outdated regulations like the Endangered Species Act negatively impact our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and foresters, create frivolous lawsuits, halt critical infrastructure projects, stifle economic growth, and do not help the species in question. It fails to do that.

Just consider the northern long-eared bat. It is declining due to a disease with no cure, and the ESA will only further restrict our ability to help the species recover. It is an inflexible and outdated approach to species conservation.

America's working lands play a vital role in protecting threatened and endangered species, Mr. Speaker.

Voluntary, locally led conservation programs should be a model for the Federal Government rather than a top-down sledgehammer of red tape, or what I prefer to call, green tape.

It is high past time to modernize the Endangered Species Act to better protect species and to treat property owners, farmers, ranchers, and States as partners rather than obstacles.

The ESA should be amended to empower local stakeholders, incentivize voluntary conservation programs, and should emphasize actually recovering species, not simply leaving them on life support for years to come.

The simple truth is the programs that we have in the Agriculture Committee under a conservation title which are locally led, voluntary conservation programs, have led to the delisting of far more species that were either listed originally as endangered or threatened.

We know that works, and we know the Endangered Species Act in its current form does not.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for elevating the voices of the people of Pennsylvania on this important issue.

He is right. The conservation programs that we have in this country have done a lot of good for species across the country.

That is why he is the chairman of the Agriculture Committee because he understands things like that.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Well, that and the fact I like to eat.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. That too. We all do once in a while.

I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), a great agricultural State, and a beautiful district that I have visited.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership, his

friendship, and for having this Special Order tonight.

We have talked about a lot of different species this evening, and I rise to discuss the misuse of the Endangered Species Act as it pertains to the lesser prairie chicken and its negative impact on farmers, ranchers, agriculture, and oil producers throughout The Big First District of Kansas.

On April 19, President Biden didn't listen to Congress when it came to our bipartisan joint resolution of disapproval on his administration's flawed and burdensome Waters of the U.S. or WOTUS rule. He vetoed it.

Soon, I hope that President Biden will have another opportunity to listen to producers when it comes to the lesser prairie chicken.

Last year, the Biden administration proposed the listing of the northern and southern distinct populations of the lesser prairie chicken as threatened and endangered, respectively, under the Endangered Species Act. That ruling became active this March.

Under the Endangered Species Act, the normal activity of agriculture and energy production can be construed as harm and harassment of the listed species and thus prohibited.

This rule fails to provide adequate protections for producers, even going so far as to require third-party approved grazing plans for ranchers.

To make matters worse, when the lesser prairie chicken rule went into effect in March, the Fish and Wildlife Service had not approved any third parties. To date, there are only three across the entire habitat area.

Grazing plans change, and ranchers are always adapting. It is unacceptable to force ranchers to agree to a grazing plan under the threat of a fine.

This is another example of Big Government overreach jeopardizing the livelihoods of American producers. The truth is, the lesser prairie chicken population thrives or dwindles based on rainfall, not the activity of agriculture energy producers.

In response to this misguided listing, which would add to President Biden's other policies that threaten our Nation's food security and energy independence, I introduced a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to strike it down.

On April 28, the Committee on Natural Resources passed my resolution. On May 3, the U.S. Senate passed their version of the same resolution.

The designation of the lesser prairie chicken as threatened in places like Kansas is unacceptable, and this rule should have no force or effect until Congress is consulted.

I have been working hard on this issue since being elected to Congress, and I am encouraged to see that it passed the U.S. Senate.

Now it is time for my colleagues in the House to decide whether they want to stand for Big Government over regulation that will put producers out of business or stand for producers' rights

to their private property and self-determination.

If my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives are willing to listen to producers, the resolution will pass and make its way to President Biden's desk.

If that happens, I hope that President Biden will listen to the people this time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MANN and appreciate his pointing out how important it is to listen to people in the local area who understand the environment, the climate that they live in, and that often they are earning their living by farming.

We have heard from several different parts of the country represented here with the different Members of Congress. So, I am going back to the great State of California to another one of the Western Caucus vice chairs, someone that is very outspoken on these issues, and has tremendous background and knowledge on the Endangered Species Act.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), for being part of this conversation and also elevating the voices of the people he represents.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is really a pleasure to serve with Chairman NEWHOUSE on the Western Caucus as well as in other capacities here in the U.S. House.

Indeed, he has really invigorated the effort that the caucus is making on having these key issues on all manner of things, not just western but really, for the whole country, having so much to do with resources and such.

As we contemplate here tonight what the Endangered Species Act's original intention 50 years ago was when passed by Congress, and really, for those of us in production, agriculture, energy, minerals, just about anything that uses the basic building blocks of the economy and the things that our modern society needs, the Endangered Species Act has been weaponized against that.

What it has turned into now due to activism in the courts, the endless lawsuits and the way the courts reinterpret things is nothing close to what Congress would have passed back in the early 1970s.

Had they passed that, I think they would have been ridden out of town on a rail because it was so destructive toward the cornerstones of our economy and what has made America strong and independent in so many areas.

We agree with the purpose originally. It is to protect and recover vulnerable species. I think the focus at the time, really, was on the bald eagle with expansion from there to many other species that we deem valuable.

The world has well over a million species in it, and they are discovering more all the time; a lot of it in the insect world and such.

To think that we are going to just completely move all human beings, especially Americans, into caves or

something like that and say we can't affect the environment or touch it in any way is really unrealistic. Mankind has a piece in the world as well. That is even a biblical truth.

The Endangered Species Act, what it has turned into, is really harming the ability for people to get what they need.

Also, the focus hasn't really been on recovering species, which I think was well intended, because we have heard my colleagues talk about the ratio here of recovery. It is extremely low, especially if you put a ratio of dollars spent and pain inflicted on agriculture, on mining, on domestically produced products versus the number of species recovered. It is way out of whack.

You heard my colleague from Minnesota a minute ago talking about the recovery of the wolves. They have an incredible number of wolves in the upper Midwest, but the ESA can be misinterpreted and misused and abused to say we need to have wolves everywhere: in Oregon, in California, in Washington.

For that matter, should we introduce them into the Golden Gate Park and the Santa Monica Pier to make sure they have their share as well?

If you want to see a wolf, you are still going to be able to see a wolf in the areas where they have been more indigenous for a long time, and they have successfully recovered.

□ 2110

This is what we put up with. They introduce them in areas where now livestock and people making a living in rural areas in Wyoming, Montana, northeast California, and Oregon have to suffer with the ideology of just introducing them everywhere and saying this is now going to make them not on the list anymore.

In my northern California area, for example, we had very important levee projects needed to be done for flood control around the north central area of Sacramento Valley, places like Hamilton City, Yuba City, Marysville, Sacramento, areas like that.

Well, they seemed to shop for a species du jour to stop projects, and what they settled on was the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, which not that many years ago U.S. Fish and Wildlife actually recommended for it to be delisted. In the meantime, however, they won't make a decision and take it off the list.

Now, mind you, you don't even find the beetle in some of these areas, but because the habitat for it exists in some of these areas, the law has been interpreted to be, well, if there is habitat there, if there is an elderberry bush and a beetle might come along and land in it or dwell in it, we have to leave that bush there. If you take that bush out in order to redo a levee, then we have to plant 50 or 70 more bushes somewhere else.

In one case here, we had to take out a couple hundred acres of orchard land

to have this mitigation area because they wanted to fix the dang levee that was already in existence and keep a town from flooding at the next rain because they are not maintaining the river in between the levee banks from all the siltation and such going on there. But that starts another whole narrative.

The beetle doesn't get delisted, and the levee work doesn't get done farther south in the Yuba City-Marysville area. This was going on 20, 30 years ago. A lot of great work has been done since then, but it has been made much more expensive and much more arduous because of the threat of lawsuit and the ESA.

I will remind you that years ago lives were lost and hundreds of millions of dollars of damage were done by a levee blowing out in that southern area of my district in Yuba City-Marysville on the Marysville side. With all that damage, three lives were lost, and finally the State of California lost a lawsuit for, I think, \$400 million because they were derelict in doing the work to maintain the levees, all because of this.

What I am talking about here as well is the ability to keep food on the table. This chart I have shows that California is responsible for, in some of these crops, 100 percent, well above 90 percent of the crops that Americans consume that come primarily from California.

We have the ESA stopping us from keeping farmland safe from floods but, also, at the same time building the water storage projects that are important to store water. Now, we were blessed this year with a tremendous amount of rain and snowpack, and we are really happy about it, but that doesn't happen every year. That is why we build these long-term water projects that store water for 5 years of drought, like Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and others. If we don't have those projects, we don't ride through that time.

They try to stop those projects from being further built, and they also seek to tear down projects like the Klamath dams, make hydroelectric green power with no CO<sub>2</sub>. Much work needs to be done to keep crops on the table, to keep the electricity and the wires, keep the minerals coming to produce all the things we need to keep energy, all of that. The ESA needs to be revisited and actually focused on truly recovering species but not used as a weapon to stop things people need, our economies need, rural economies especially. That is some of the work we do in the Western Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, again, Chairman NEWHOUSE's leadership on this and the opportunity to speak on it here tonight. There is much more that I could say; you know me.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. LAMALFA is correct, there are a lot of things that we should talk about. We have a limited amount of time, but he

is very good at expressing the needs of the people that he represents and making sure that people understand.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am a farmer in my real life. I hope I talk plainly enough to get my thoughts across.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, in summation, as you have heard tonight, the Endangered Species Act, signed into law 50 years ago—and I think you probably picked this up—was designed to do two things: It was designed to prevent the species from going extinct and to promote its recovery. We need to return to that mission. We need to work with landowners and local governments, Tribes, and always keep the well-being of the species in mind in that work.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to be transparent for the American people. There is just too much at stake for us not to be. As members of the Congressional Western Caucus, we are going to continue to elevate the voice of the people of rural America on important issues like the Endangered Species Act and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1016. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a notification of export transactions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1017. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Annual Reporting and Disclosure (RIN: 1210-AB97) received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-1018. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities, requirements, and definitions — State-Tribal Education Partnership Program [Docket ID: ED-2022-OESE-0151] received May 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-1019. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Refrigerated Bottled or

Canned Beverage Vending Machines [EERE-2021-BT-TP-0007] (RIN: 1904-AE67) received May 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1020. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Various Fragrance Components in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0594; FRL-10970-01-OCSPP] received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1021. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Non-attainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2021-0307; FRL-10965-02-R3] received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1022. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Spiropidion; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0356; FRL-9839-02-OCSPP] received May 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1023. A letter from the Assistant Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Clean Data Determination for the Detroit Area for the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0058; FRL-10634-02-R5] received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1024. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval, Conditional Approval, and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for Ozone [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0957; FRL-10543-02-R9] received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1025. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0795; FRL-10217-03-R9] received May 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1026. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Redesignation of the Detroit, MI Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standards [EPA-R05-OAR-2022-0004; FRL-9629-04-R5] received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1027. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Erucamide In Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0942; FRL-10868-01-

OCSPP] May 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1028. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — D-Glucopyranose, oligomeric, maleates, decyl octyl glycosides, sulfonated, potassium salts; D-glucopyranose, oligomeric, maleates, C10-16-alkyl glycosides, sulfonated, potassium salts; and D-glucopyranose, oligomeric, maleates, C9-11-branched and linear alkyl glycosides, sulfonated, potassium salts; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0612; FRL-10972-01-OCSPP] received May 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1029. A letter from the Assistant Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Program, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Benzyl Alcohol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0173; FRL-10940-01-OCSPP] received May 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1030. A letter from the Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communication's Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Updating the Intercarrier Compensation Regime to Eliminate Access Arbitrage [WC Docket No.: 18-155] received May 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1031. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-088, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1156. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-72). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 662. A bill to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-73). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 1713. A bill to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 118-74 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 1713. A bill to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-74 Pt.

2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1076. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-75 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 429. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 467) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to 'Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards'; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 45) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to 'Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans' (Rept. 118-76). Referred to the House Calendar.

### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on the Judiciary and Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1076 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 3555. A bill to enhance the reporting and testimony requirements for Federal banking agencies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 3556. A bill to amend the Federal financial laws to increase financial regulatory accountability and transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 3557. A bill to streamline Federal, State, and local permitting and regulatory reviews to expedite the deployment of communications facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 3558. A bill to establish experience requirements for the Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 3559. A bill to provide for Federal Aviation Administration research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 3560. A bill to provide for coordinated Federal efforts to accelerate civilian unmanned aircraft systems and advanced air mobility research and development for economic and national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, Homeland Security, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 3561. A bill to promote hospital and insurer price transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 3562. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize Forest Service flexible partnerships; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BACON, Ms. BALINT, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. FROST, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida):

H.R. 3563. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exempt from punishment the possession, sale, or purchase of fentanyl drug testing equipment; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. STELL, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 3564. A bill to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-family mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 3565. A bill to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to use a system of competitive bidding to grant a license or a permit for use of electromagnetic spectrum and to direct proceeds from such a system of competitive bidding for communications and technology initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 3566. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals to avoid a penalty for failure to pay income tax by timely paying 125 percent of the income tax liability for the prior year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 3567. A bill to prevent discrimination and retaliation against incarcerated workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 3568. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to clarify the requisite timeline for making a decision on the approval or disapproval of a State underground injection control program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 3569. A bill to provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3570. A bill to provide public awareness and outreach regarding the dangers of fentanyl, to expand the grants authorized under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, to expand treatment and recovery services for people with opioid addictions, and to increase and to provide enhanced penalties for certain offenses involving counterfeit pills; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3571. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 3572. A bill to amend the securities laws to exclude investment contract assets from the definition of a security; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 3573. A bill to require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. LIEU, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BERA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PORTER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KILEY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. PELOSI):

H.R. 3574. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Long Beach Boulevard in Long Beach, California, as the "Alan S. Lowenthal Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. LIEU, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BERA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PORTER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KILEY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. PELOSI):

H.R. 3575. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7911 Imperial Highway in Downey, California, as the "Lucille Roybal-Allard Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. FROST, Mr. CARSON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TLAI, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 3576. A bill to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace for certain employees of air carrier employers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 3577. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to establish an automated supply chain tracking application that provides near real-time insight into the amount of critical medical and health supplies available in the Strategic National Stockpile; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. IVEY:

H.R. 3578. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 3579. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. EZELL, and Ms. LETLOW):

H.R. 3580. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase funding for the conservation stewardship program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 3581. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 3582. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain post-graduation scholarship grants from gross income in the same manner as qualified scholarships to promote economic growth; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CHU, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CROCKETT):

H.R. 3583. A bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion and attainment of lifelong sexual health and healthy relationships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.



By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 3584. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. KILMER, and Mrs. TORRES of California):

H.R. 3585. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3586. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to treat the District of Columbia as a State for purposes of certain grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 3587. A bill to prohibit the delivery of opioids by means of the dark web, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 3588. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Dr. John Cheng, a hero who died protecting others on May 15, 2022; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. BERA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

H.R. 3589. A bill to require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 3590. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit picketing or parading certain buildings or residences; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 3591. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permanently bar aliens who are ordered removed after failing to appear at a removal proceeding, absent

exceptional circumstances, from becoming permanent residents of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BERGMAN, and Ms. PETERSEN):

H.R. 3592. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas (SRAO) program, also known as the "Donut Dollies", who served honorably during the Vietnam conflict; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 3593. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation shall establish a drone infrastructure inspection grant program and a drone education and workforce training grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 3594. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Transportation to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 3595. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Agriculture to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution expressing the need for the Senate to provide advice and consent to ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Ms. STANSBURY):

H. Res. 430. A resolution expressing the need for protecting and conserving at least 50 percent of the land, freshwater, and ocean ecosystems in the United States and encouraging diplomatic community efforts to achieve this goal worldwide; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BICE:

H. Res. 431. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to rename the Office of Diversity and Inclusion as the Office of Talent and Development and to transfer the Office to the Office of the Chief

Administrative Officer; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TRONE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 432. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the month of May as Sex Ed For All Month: Equity and Access for All; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H. Res. 433. A resolution recognizing the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TRONE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Res. 434. A resolution declaring a mental health crisis among youth in the United States, and expressing the pressing need for historic investments in mental health care for students; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE):

H. Res. 435. A resolution requiring each Member, officer, and employee of the House of Representatives to complete a program of training in workplace rights and responsibilities each session of each Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Ms. MACE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CHU, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CROW, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CRAIG, and Ms. PORTER):

H. Res. 436. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 22 through 26, 2023, as "Educator Mental Health Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-7. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 45, urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development to take action to address the abuse of the porting process that has a detrimental effect on communities as outlined in this resolution; to the Committee on Financial Services.

ML-8. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee, relative to House



Joint Resolution No. 27, strongly supporting completion of the border wall along our nation's southern border; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

ML-9. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 27, strongly supporting completion of the border wall along our nation's southern border; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

ML-10. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Resolution No 28, designating 2023 as "State of California Year of Commemoration of the Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923"; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Education and the Workforce.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 3555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To enhance the reporting and testimony requirements for Federal banking agencies.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

The single subject of this legislation is:

To strengthen the transparency and accountability of Federal Banking regulators.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 3557.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expedite broadband deployment by streamlining permitting reviews.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 3558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

The single subject of this legislation is:

To strengthen the experience of the Vice Chair for supervision.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 3559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

"The Congress shall have Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

The FAA Research and Development Act of 2023 is a bill that addresses the single subject regarding the reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration research and development.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 3560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

The National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Research and Development Act is a bill that addresses the single subject regarding the coordination of Federal efforts to accelerate civilian unmanned aircraft systems and advanced air mobility research and development.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 3561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To lower costs for and improve the health of patients.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 3562.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reauthorize and improve Forest Service authority to lease administrative sites.

By Ms. CROCKETT:

H.R. 3563.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to exempt from punishment the possession, sale, or purchase of fentanyl drug testing equipment

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 3564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Federal Housing Finance Agency

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 3565.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Federal Communications Commission to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding and use proceeds from future systems bidding to fund several programs related to communications and technology.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 3566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Simplify tax filing extension

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 3567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Workplace Protections for Incarcerated Workers

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 3568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To clarify the requisite timeline for making a decision on the approval or disapproval of a State underground injection control program

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 3569.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 3570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Combating the use of fentanyl and providing public awareness and outreach regarding the dangers of Fentanyl.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 3572.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends securities laws.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 3573.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the portability of Section 8 housing vouchers established in the United States Housing Act of 1937

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California:

H.R. 8574.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Postal

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California:

H.R. 3575.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Postal

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 3576.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace for certain employees of air carrier employers.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 3577.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Supply Chain

By Mr. IVEY:

H.R. 3578.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 1, Section 8, and Section 9 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States in accordance with the Office of the Law Revision Counsel.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 3579.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 3580.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Agriculture

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 3581.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation only pertains to: initiating a grant program supporting Veteran caregivers' mental health.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 3582.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8,

Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes . . ."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Excludes certain post-graduation scholarship grants from gross income in the same manner as qualified scholarships to promote economic growth.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 3583.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Family Issues, Reproductive, Education

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 3584.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

Research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis for veterans.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 3585.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 5 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Congressional Accountability Act

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3586.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

to make the District of Columbia eligible for federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 3587.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Judiciary

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 3588.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To award a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Dr. John Cheng, a hero who died protecting others on May 15, 2022

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 3589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish health insurance coverage of over-the-counter contraceptives

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 3590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend Title 18, USC, to prohibit picketing or parading certain buildings or residences.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 3591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permanently bar aliens who are ordered removed after failing to appear at a removal proceeding, absent exceptional circumstances, from becoming permanent residents of the United States

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 3592.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 6 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas (SRAO) program, also known as the Donut Dollies, who served honorably during the Vietnam conflict.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 3593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To advance the use for drones for infrastructure inspection.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 3594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Transportation to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 3595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Agriculture to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 79: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 82: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 130: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 237: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 250: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 253: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 287: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 309: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 329: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 339: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.

H.R. 341: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.

H.R. 343: Mr. CRANE and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 345: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 431: Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 435: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 491: Mr. MOLINARO and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 503: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 584: Mr. BEYER and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 589: Mr. MANN and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 594: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 603: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 615: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 620: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 645: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Ms. PIN-GREE.

H.R. 646: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 648: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 715: Ms. WATERS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. McCLELLAN.

H.R. 724: Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 744: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 758: Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 785: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 795: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 797: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 804: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 805: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 807: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 871: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 882: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 883: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 895: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 915: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 917: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 949: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 951: Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 1015: Mr. BOST and Mr. ROSE.  
H.R. 1065: Ms. LOFGREN and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 1076: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. STEIL, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 1077: Mr. COURTNEY.  
H.R. 1097: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H.R. 1105: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 1118: Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 1147: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. COMER.  
H.R. 1191: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 1235: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 1241: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 1267: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. CARSON.  
H.R. 1282: Mr. HIMES, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. WALBERG.  
H.R. 1291: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 1293: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1297: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. DUNN of Florida.  
H.R. 1314: Mrs. PELTOLA.  
H.R. 1372: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 1384: Mr. STEIL.  
H.R. 1385: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 1413: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. HUNT, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARL, and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 1441: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 1458: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 1461: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 1477: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1484: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 1488: Mr. KEATING and Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 1500: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.  
H.R. 1505: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 1546: Mr. DONALDS and Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 1553: Mr. NICKEL.  
H.R. 1606: Mr. KILDEE and Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 1609: Mr. STEWART and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. BURLISON and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 1613: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 1631: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 1634: Mr. TONKO and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 1640: Mr. OGLES and Mr. PERRY.  
H.R. 1644: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 1668: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 1691: Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 1695: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 1699: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 1705: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1713: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 1730: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 1761: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1763: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 1769: Mr. BIGGS.  
H.R. 1770: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.  
H.R. 1776: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 1787: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 1788: Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 1796: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.  
H.R. 1812: Ms. PETTERSEN.  
H.R. 1818: Mr. STANTON and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 1824: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 1826: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 1831: Mr. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 1839: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BANKS.  
H.R. 2370: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
H.R. 2394: Mr. STANTON.  
H.R. 2400: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 2407: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STANTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
H.R. 2412: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 2461: Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 2572: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 2604: Mr. TRONE, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. SABLÁN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Ms. BUSH.  
H.R. 2627: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. NICKEL.  
H.R. 2630: Mr. CASE, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. HARRIS.  
H.R. 2666: Mr. BALDERSON.  
H.R. 2717: Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 2718: Mr. EVANS.  
H.R. 2729: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 2736: Mr. CASAR.  
H.R. 2743: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
H.R. 2762: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BUSH, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 2766: Ms. SPANBERGER and Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 2771: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 2822: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 2830: Mr. DUARTE and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
H.R. 2867: Mr. FOUSHEE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 2873: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
H.R. 2889: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 2918: Mr. MILLS.  
H.R. 2926: Mr. GARBARINO.  
H.R. 2928: Mr. STRONG.  
H.R. 2935: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 2939: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 2940: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 2974: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 2985: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 3002: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
H.R. 3005: Mr. MFUME and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 3011: Ms. STRICKLAND.  
H.R. 3021: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 3031: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 3036: Mr. MOLINARO and Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 3050: Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 3082: Ms. TITUS, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 3086: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 3103: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 3125: Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 3127: Mr. MOLINARO.  
H.R. 3152: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. TENNEY.  
H.R. 3170: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CROW, and Mr. VASQUEZ.  
H.R. 3183: Mr. CARSON.  
H.R. 3185: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 3191: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 3194: Mrs. FLETCHER and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 3199: Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 3202: Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. SANTOS.

H.R. 3207: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. CARSON.  
H.R. 3212: Mr. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 3214: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 3256: Mr. CRANE, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. FRY.  
H.R. 3258: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 3259: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 3266: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MANN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 3277: Mr. LATTA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
H.R. 3305: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 3317: Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 3318: Mr. COLLINS.  
H.R. 3328: Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 3329: Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 3333: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 3372: Mr. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 3373: Mr. KILMER, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
H.R. 3375: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Ms. SCHOLTEN.  
H.R. 3376: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 3381: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H.R. 3393: Mr. STEUBE.  
H.R. 3405: Mr. HILL, Mr. MILLS, and Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 3409: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 3413: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MANN, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Ms. MACE.  
H.R. 3420: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 3433: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 3434: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 3442: Mr. TRONE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 3448: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H.R. 3458: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H.R. 3468: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 3470: Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILD, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MFUME, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 3473: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.  
H.R. 3474: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 3481: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 3495: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 3519: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 3527: Mr. STEUBE.  
H.R. 3534: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 3536: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 3538: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 3547: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. WALTZ.  
H.R. 3548: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 3554: Mr. HERN.  
H. J. Res. 53: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.  
H. Res. 77: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H. Res. 128: Mr. CARSON.  
H. Res. 195: Ms. PORTER, Ms. CHU, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. JACOBS.  
H. Res. 261: Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 277: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H. Res. 349: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H. Res. 351: Ms. PORTER, Ms. BROWNLEY,  
Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SEWELL, and  
Mr. TRONE.  
H. Res. 381: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Ms. CRAIG.  
H. Res. 382: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr.  
JACKSON of North Carolina, Mrs. FLETCHER,  
Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SHERRILL,  
Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. LEE of Ne-  
vada, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. LIEU.  
H. Res. 389: Ms. SEWELL.

H. Res. 396: Mr. BAIRD.  
H. Res. 400: Mr. ROSE.  
H. Res. 405: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mr.  
MILLS.  
H. Res. 406: Mr. MILLS.  
H. Res. 409: Mr. STEUBE.  
H. Res. 410: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mr.  
MILLS.  
H. Res. 411: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
H. Res. 420: Mrs. HARSHBARGER and Mr.  
MILLS.  
H. Res. 427: Mr. RASKIN.

H. Res. 428: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr.  
LAWLER.

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DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM  
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors  
were deleted from public bills and reso-  
lutions, as follows:

H.R. 915: Mr. ALLRED.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MICHAEL SHORT

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and passion of Michael Short.

Michael Short has been involved in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) since the mid-1970s. He taught elementary choirs at Cambridge, West Orange, and Prospect and some of the infamous musicals that they have produced were "Let George Do It" and "It's All About Music".

He obtained his bachelor's degree from Chapman College in Orange, California in 1979 and his master's degree in choral conducting from California State University, Fullerton in 1988.

In August of 1979, he was hired as a full-time music teacher at Portola Junior High and in 1982, he created the Chamber Singers at Orange High School (OHS) while still running a full-time program at Portola. He was offered a full-time position by Orange High School in August of 1982. In April of 1982, the Chamber Singers sang at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Short.

In 1988, he became the Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Orange, down the block from his home. From 1990 to 1993, he was one of the Chairmen of the American Choral Directors Association High School Honor Choirs and continues to work with the American Choral Directors Association in many capacities over the last three decades.

In February of 2002, he received the "Bravo Award" from the Los Angeles Music Center for his excellence in music education and was named "Teacher of the Year 2004" by OUSD.

In October of 2005, he was named "Chapman University's Alumnus of the Year 2004" and in 2006 he was named the City of Orange's "Citizen of the Year for 2005" by the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

He continues to be involved in the arts in the Orange, California community. In 1995, he created and still conducts the "City of Orange Tree Lighting and Candlelight Procession" in downtown Orange every holiday season and the patriotic program "Third of July" every summer.

The latest project to be a recipient to his enthusiasm and leadership is the Greater Orange Community Arts Theater (GOCAT) which is a venue to feature creative artists of the community. Even though he is retiring from Orange High School, he continues to be involved in the community and the arts.

Currently, Michael is the President of the Western Division, American Choral Directors Association and he oversees the Western Region ACDA Conference to be held in Pasadena, California in March of 2024.

Michael has been married to Vicki since 1982 and has two children, Katherine Hicks

and Matthew Short. He and his wife are proud grandparents to three grandchildren as of August 2020.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and commemorating the outstanding career and accomplishments of Michael Short.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RO KHANNA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2023, I inadvertently cast a "yea" vote for H. Amdt. 176 to H.R. 3091. I intended to vote "nay."

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. THOMAS DIXON

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Thomas Dixon, a civil rights icon and the founding President and CEO of the Tacoma Urban League, whose impactful leadership in our region will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Dixon was born in 1931 in Sparta, Georgia, and recalled the incredible influence of his family, including his father, who was a doctor, and his grandfather, who was formerly enslaved, and became one of the largest Black landowners in the county. Encouraged by his family to pursue higher education, Mr. Dixon came to Tacoma, Washington after enlisting in the United States Air Force. He received his bachelor's degree at Sophia University in Tokyo while serving in Japan and earned his master's degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

Mr. Dixon belonged to a remarkable generation, who bravely carried the weight of responsibility in leading Tacoma through the Civil Rights Era. In 1966, he continued his life of service as the first Director of the Hilltop Multi-service Center, where he dedicated his time and energies to improving the lives of people in Tacoma through housing, job training, and educational opportunities. Just two years later, Mr. Dixon began his tenure as Executive Director of the Tacoma affiliate of the National Urban League. Throughout the 34 years he served in this role, and through his pioneering involvement with the Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective, Mr. Dixon was a tenacious and visionary leader, pushing for racial, social, and economic justice in our region. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to our community, he was honored with the Laureate of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize in 2015.

The Tacoma community has joined in mourning Mr. Dixon's passing on April 26,

2023, at the age of 92. Our hearts are with his wife, Sylvia, his family, and the countless individuals who held him dearly, as we express our deepest gratitude for the legacy he built. When reflecting on his career and life lived, Mr. Dixon was quoted as saying, "Everything I have done, I would try to do it again." May we all continue to do our part in keeping his spirit of service alive into the future.

HONORING JAZMIN SANCHEZ TORREZ WITH FIRST PLACE IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jazmin Sanchez Torrez for being honored as the Winner of New Hampshire's First District Congressional Art Competition. As we celebrate the competition's 42nd year, we continue to uplift young talent while recognizing and celebrating how important arts education is to our young people. This year we received outstanding submissions from talented young artists from across the First District. Jazmin's artwork titled In Full Bloom was chosen by our Advisory Board as an excellent piece of art with an impactful meaning.

Jazmin's intent with her artwork was to capture the presence of insecurities. The flowers in the image mark where the person is least confident in their appearance. While taking the reference photos for this project, she simply handed her subject a bouquet of flowers and asked, "What would you cover up?" Jazmin wanted to highlight that what may be insecurities to some, can be seen as beautiful by others. Her work exemplified creativity and thoughtfulness, and it will be an honor to display this piece in the United States Capitol for all to see.

New Hampshire is filled with talented student-artists with bright futures ahead, and Jazmin proudly represents the best of the best here in the Granite State. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Jazmin for embodying all the creativity that our state has to offer, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

### RECOGNIZING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of Jewish

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

American Heritage Month, as well as the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Throughout a multitude of sectors in fields like government and military service, science and innovation, business, medicine, and the arts and humanities, Jewish Americans have made a mark on the course of history and have created a strong foundation for future generations to come. On this occasion, we have the unique opportunity to recognize the impact that Jewish American people, organizations, businesses, and more have made, all while connecting people to their heritage.

During Jewish American Heritage Month, we are also reminded that the vibrant culture of the Jewish people has not always been embraced, but it has certainly been a part of enriching our communities' history, values, and culture. In a country where diversity should be cherished and protected, Jewish communities continue to endure hostility, hatred, and narrow-mindedness. Anti-Semitism in any form, by anyone, is simply unacceptable, and it is our job to ensure Jewish Americans can proudly and safely express their faith and identity. Despite experiencing discrimination and adversity, this community has undoubtedly played a central role in the growth and prosperity of our country.

We are proud to celebrate Jewish Americans' legacies and accomplishments during this Jewish American Heritage Month. I look forward to celebrating more notable milestones with Jewish American communities for decades to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

##### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th anniversary of the Head Start program and the invaluable services it makes available to children and families in need. The Head Start Project was launched in 1965 as a comprehensive child development program. President Lyndon Johnson commissioned Sargent Shriver with the establishment of a comprehensive program that would assist underserved communities in meeting the needs of preschool aged children. With the help of education, psychology, and child experts, the U.S. government initially launched "Project Head Start" as an eight-week summer program that reached 561,000 children. Finding early success, the program was expanded in the fall of 1965 to provide services throughout the entire school year. In the subsequent decades, Head Start has further grown to include bilingual and bicultural programs, as well as services for disadvantaged infants, toddlers, and pregnant women through Early Head Start grants.

Over the last six decades, the Head Start Program has provided a window of opportunity to more than 37 million vulnerable children and their families. Now serving nearly 1 million children and their families annually in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. Head Start's exceptional dedication to our children is truly re-

markable, and this year, as it celebrates its 58th anniversary, we express our appreciation for the impact that Head Start has had on communities across the country and especially in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF GARY SPARKS' 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER FOR OXFORD, ALABAMA

##### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Chief Gary Sparks' 40 years of service as a firefighter for the City of Oxford, Alabama.

Chief Sparks began his work with the City of Oxford when he was just 15 years old washing trucks and cleaning the station. On May 12, 1983, He became an official member of the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department.

He later became a full-time member of the Anniston Fire Department on February 13, 1987, rising through the ranks to eventually become Assistant Fire Chief in 2003.

After 20 years of service with the Anniston Fire Department, he retired on February 13, 2007. Chief Sparks became full time Fire Chief for the City of Oxford on March 3, 2007.

Chief Sparks is involved in several civic organizations in his community. He is currently serving on the Alabama Joint Fire Council. He has served Alabama's fire service for eight years with dedication and insight as a member of the Personnel Standards & Education Commission with the Alabama Fire College. He is a Past President of the Alabama Fire Chiefs Association and was voted the 2015 Alabama Fire Chief of the Year.

In addition to being a dedicated firefighter, Chief Sparks is also a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Chief Sparks and his 40 years of service as a firefighter for the citizens of the City of Oxford.

#### CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF TRINI GOMEZ

##### HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Ms. Trini Gomez, a constituent and friend, as she celebrates her 98th birthday. We celebrate the remarkable life she has led.

Her dedication to serving the Hispanic community through managing the Inland Empire Hispanic News has made a lasting impact on our community. She and her late husband, Graciano Gomez, provided a platform for voices that needed to be heard, shedding light on important issues, celebrating achievements and fostering a sense of unity among the Inland Empire.

Her life journey is an inspiration to all of us. On this special day we honor her incredible achievements and the inspirational person she is. I hope her birthday is filled with joy, surrounded by loved ones who cherish and admire her.

Today, I thank her for being an extraordinary role model and for inspiring us all with her unwavering dedication and love for our community. May the coming year bring her good health, happiness and many more cherished memories.

#### HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS SCORPION'S DISAPPEARANCE

##### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 55th anniversary of the tragic loss of the USS *Scorpion* and its crew of 99. On this solemn occasion, we remember the valiant submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great Nation.

The USS *Scorpion*, a distinguished vessel within the Skipjack-class of nuclear-powered submarines, disappeared on May 22, 1968, during a deployment in the Atlantic Ocean. It took several months to locate its remains, and despite multiple investigations from the Department of Defense, we may never know what truly resulted in this steep loss to our Nation's fighting force. This somber event serves as a stark reminder of the inherent risks and sacrifices associated with submarine operations, and the bravery of Americans who step up to serve underseas in the Silent Service.

The USS *Scorpion* was a vessel that symbolized American strength, technological prowess, and the courageous spirit of our servicemen. It was manned by a highly skilled and dedicated crew who embarked on perilous missions in defense of our Nation. As we honor the 55th anniversary of the USS *Scorpion's* disappearance, let us reaffirm our commitment to the safety, readiness, and well-being of our submariners. We must ensure that those who choose to serve are equipped with the resources, training, and support necessary to carry out their vital missions.

Mr. Speaker, the USS *Scorpion* crew's unwavering dedication to duty and defending our Nation overseas deserves our eternal gratitude. We must continue to remember their legacy. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the 55th anniversary of the loss of the USS *Scorpion* and etching the sacrifice of its 99 servicemembers into our collective memory.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. The bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for three federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. It would also make D.C. eligible for a transportation program that



would support the replacement and removal of infrastructure that damages the ecosystems of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states. In fact, D.C. pays more federal taxes per capita than any state. D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. Under this program, each state is authorized to receive a minimum amount of \$4 million per year, while D.C. is authorized to receive a minimum of only \$1 million. Third, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program. Currently, only states and units of local government are eligible for these competitive grants, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has held that D.C. does not qualify, even though it operates as the functional equivalent of a joint city, county and state. Fourth, the bill would treat D.C. as a state for the purposes of the Safe Streets for All Program. Cities, counties and political subdivisions of a state are eligible for these grants, but DOT has held that D.C. is ineligible.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users, the extension of transit service to new communities, the replacement and repair of culverts, and the implementation of roadway safety improvements for all road users. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

Last Congress, the House's surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these four programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### CELEBRATING MAX COOK AND HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MISSOURI BANKERS ASSOCIATION

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Cook and his 32 years of service at the Missouri Bankers Association. His leadership, dedication, and advocacy for community banking has strengthened business throughout Missouri.

Under his stewardship, Max led the effort to forge the next generation of banking professionals in Missouri. In celebration of his retirement, an endowment established in his name will send emerging industry leaders to meet policymakers here in Washington. Max's legacy will be felt throughout Missouri for years to come.

In addition to congratulating him on his illustrious career, I thank Max for his friendship. He's a good man who has done great things for many people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Max Cook a very happy retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 18, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 226 and YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

#### HONORING JUDGE ANTHONY J. DENNIS

#### HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this month, Rhode Island District Court Judge Anthony J. Dennis celebrated his 98th birthday and remains an important and active member of his community.

Born in Bristol, Rhode Island on May 15, 1925, Judge Dennis was raised in Naugatuck, Connecticut. In 1942, at the age of 17, he made the brave decision to enlist in the Navy Seabees.

During World War II, he was stationed in the Pacific Theater on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands and on Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands with Unit CBMU 549. His unit's courageous efforts helped lead to the Japanese surrender of Wake Island in 1945. Judge Dennis returned safely to the United States and was honorably discharged in 1946.

After the war, he resumed his education at Bristol's Colt High School and then continued to Providence College. At the age of 29, Judge Dennis obtained his law degree from Boston University Law School and then became a member of the Rhode Island bar in 1954.

He was elected Bristol Town Clerk in 1956, serving in this role until 1969. He was also a member of the Rhode Island Democratic Party Executive Committee, serving as Secretary from 1963 to 1969.

Judge Dennis was appointed by Governor Frank Licht and confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate in 1969 as a District Court Judge where he served honorably for 21 years before retiring in 1990. During those years, I had the privilege of appearing before Judge Dennis as a practicing attorney. He was always a compassionate, profound, and thoughtful Judge with a deep commitment to justice.

Rhode Island thanks the Honorable Anthony J. Dennis for his dedicated service to our state and country and wishes him a happy birthday.

#### CELEBRATING UCLA MENS VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR THEIR 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the men's volleyball team from the University of California, Los Angeles. They took home the 2023 NCAA Men's National Collegiate Volleyball Championship on the 6th of May. UCLA defeated the men's volleyball team from the University of Hawaii at EagleBank Arena on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

This year's championship is the program's 20th national title win and the 121st overall NCAA title win by a UCLA Bruin team in any sport.

The men's volleyball team should be proud of their achievement in earning the distinction of being national champions, amongst the more than half a million student-athletes who participate in NCAA events each year. The team ended their season with 12 straight wins, which marked the longest streak by the program since their last 2006 national title win. With guidance from Coach John Speraw, the team was able to defeat the two-time defending champions, Hawaii, with a 3-1 win.

I would like to sincerely congratulate the UCLA's men's volleyball team once again on winning the national championship and wish them the best of luck next season. This win is a special moment in the collegiate athletic careers of each individual UCLA player and marks an exceptional accomplishment and historic achievement for the UCLA community. Go Bruins.

#### RECOGNIZING LEAH PEER

#### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Leah Peer, Founder and Music Director of Kol Nashim, the Women's Choir of the Colorado Hebrew Chorale.

Leah founded Kol Nashim in the fall of 2013 with the mission to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Jewish experience through song by performing with and for diverse audiences. In 2014, Kol Nashim performed its first benefit concert to raise awareness for women in need and has since continued to spread its dual message of presenting Jewish music while expressing the life experience of women.

A notable history with music, Leah is an active performing pianist and has established several chamber ensembles around the U.S. Additionally, she holds a Master of Music in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, Israel.

Leah is a teacher, leader, and musician. Her dedication to music is apparent and undoubtedly led to the beautiful cultivation of her art. I want to congratulate Leah on her many accomplishments as we celebrate 10 years of Kol Nashim.

# RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD

## HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Emergency Rescue Squad on its 75th Anniversary.

As the Rescue Squad celebrates this milestone, we look back on the outstanding history that has shaped the organization. On April 5, 1947, the Ansul Rescue Squad was established after founding member Joe Banich conducted a survey at the Ansul Company about employees who understood first aid procedures. Following the survey, Mr. Banich was given permission to facilitate a sign-up for individuals interested in first aid training. Eight men signed up to take an extensive 21-week first aid training course and the first rescue squad was formed. The group of men, referred to as the "Great Eight," began a legacy of service that would live on for generations.

Throughout the years, the Great Eight expanded their knowledge and skill while providing services to the sick and injured. The men continued to play a critical role in the community and therefore, were provided with a Rescue Squad vehicle and first aid equipment. By 1949, the group had grown to eighteen members who answered more than 1,300 calls from community members in need. Then in 1959, the Ansul Rescue Squad was turned over to the Marinette and Menominee community management and became the Emergency Rescue Squad as it is still referred to today. Today, the Rescue Squad receives up to 20 calls in a 24-hour period demonstrating the clear need and service they provide to northern Wisconsin.

I commend the numerous members of the Rescue Squad, past and present, for their years of selfless service and dedication to the community over the years. Over the last 75 years, the Emergency Rescue Squad has played a critical role in the success and safety of communities throughout Marinette County, including the cities of Marinette, Peshtigo, Menominee, and the towns of Peshtigo, Porterfield and Grover. I extend my sincere appreciation to past and present members of the Emergency Rescue Squad for their years of exceptional service to Northeast Wisconsin.

It is my honor to commemorate this historic milestone for the Emergency Rescue Squad. I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Emergency Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

## HONORING MACY MCKAY

## HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. Macy McKay for her years of service at St. Luke's Episcopal School. Ms. McKay is retiring after 50 years of teaching and coaching countless students. Teachers and

coaches are tasked with an incredible responsibility to mold the minds of our young folks and equip them with the knowledge and the tools they need to be productive members of our society.

Ms. McKay has gone above and beyond the call of duty with her students, and her impact will live on for generations to come in the lives of so many students, parents, and fellow educators in Mobile.

After graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970, Ms. McKay began her career in education. In 1973, she came to St. Luke's to help create a physical education program. During Ms. McKay's time as a coach at St. Luke's, she has been the driving force behind the state winning archery program. Her passion for physical education is just one of the many factors that play a part in the incredible impact she has made on our community.

Ms. McKay's legacy lives on in the St. Luke's community. After 50 years of hard work and determination, she has more than earned a relaxing retirement. I know I am joined by so many in our community who are thankful for her impressive career.

## HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE

## HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration and the utmost respect that I rise to recognize the outstanding group of individuals who comprised the United States Navy Airborne Early Warning Squadron One (designated VW-1). For their courage in the face of danger and their commitment to defending their fellow service members, these brave individuals are to be commended.

In 1944, recognizing the need for early warning radar and aircraft to protect the United States Naval Fleet from attack by identifying ships and low-flying aircraft, the United States Navy launched its first program aimed at minimizing the impact on our military and its operations. As the program evolved, in June 1952, Airborne Early Warning Squadron One was established and initially located at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, in the then Territory of Hawaii. Soon after, a permanent detachment of VW-1 was established in the Western Pacific, providing heavy airborne early warning coverage and participating in the Korean War. After relocating to Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, in 1957, VW-1 took on additional roles, and in 1961, was tasked with weather reconnaissance. This increased focus on identifying hazardous weather conditions included the addition of 6 meteorologists and 18 aerographers, as well as new technological equipment. During 1961 alone, VW-1 flew more than 1,000 hours of weather reconnaissance, thus identifying the squadron as the "Typhoon Trackers."

Through its valiant efforts, VW-1 provided airborne early warning support and protection for the U.S. Seventh Fleet during the Vietnam War, from 1964 through 1971. Their mission was to fly north of the DMZ in the Gulf of Tonkin, providing airborne protection for the Sev-

enth Fleet, which was operating below the DMZ. VW-1 was responsible for alerting the Seventh Fleet against enemy attacks and dangerous storms while also providing radar surveillance for air strikes over North Vietnam.

From 1964 through 1967, VW-1 was based in the Philippines for an extended airborne mission time of 18 hours. These missions were often extended beyond the aircraft's fuel range, requiring them to refuel at Da Nang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam before returning to base. In late 1967, a detachment was established at Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam but later moved to Da Nang Air Base in order to shorten the mission time.

From its establishment in June 1952 until July 1971, at which time the unit was absorbed into VQ-1, VW-1 completed its mission with an astonishing record of 19 years of accident-free flights, totaling more than 160,000 flight hours. For its efforts, VW-1 was twice awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Individually, aircrew members have also received more than 1,200 Air Medals and 2 Purple Hearts, both of which were awarded for injuries sustained in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the brave men of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One (designated VW-1). The squadron played a critical role in the United States Military, and its courageous members are a true example of steadfast patriotism. Let us never forget their service and the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation and their fellow service members.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on Amendment No. 1 and passage of H. Con. Res. 40.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 226 and YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

## RECOGNIZING CLINT JOHNSTON

## HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an extraordinary educator. Clint Johnston has spent 31 years in public education. He retires at the end of this school year as Superintendent of the Jefferson R-VII district. Clint began his career in Scott County Missouri, teaching science, coaching baseball, and driving buses. He ends it in Jefferson County Missouri overseeing four schools, 160 faculty and staff, and 1,123 students in Pre-K through 12th grade.

Mr. Johnston takes an interest in his students, celebrating their achievements and helping them overcome their challenges. He encourages and inspires his faculty and staff to provide an exemplary education to the students in their care. He is, most certainly, the

biggest cheerleader for his Jefferson County Blue Jays.

It has been my great privilege to nominate students from Jefferson R–VII who have achieved their dreams of attending U.S. Service academies. No one is prouder of their accomplishments than Superintendent Johnston.

As he retires from education, he begins a new chapter that his wife Joy says will include some travel and some time at his family farm. To paraphrase a line from his favorite movie, “Forrest Gump,” “retirement is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you’re gonna get.”

On behalf of the thousands of children and their families whose lives he touched, I am proud to congratulate retiring Jefferson R–VII Superintendent Clint Johnston of Festus, Missouri today before the United States House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), which will be celebrated on June 7th.

On June 1, 1998, the Center opened its doors to America’s first responders in Calhoun County, Alabama. During the past 25 years, the staff of the CDP have provided essential all hazards training to first responders from all 50 states, every U.S. territory, and numerous tribal nations, enabling them to plan for, respond to and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

Its multifaceted campus includes the Nation’s only toxic agent training facility for civilian responders to gain the competence and confidence to respond to real world events involving chemical, biological, explosive, radiological, and other hazardous materials. It also includes the only hospital facility in the Nation dedicated solely to training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. In addition, it has served as a Joint Field Office for tornado response efforts in the state of Alabama and a personnel mobilization center for responders being forward deployed to presidentially declared disasters across the Nation.

Today, the CDP is under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency and further helps ensure a safe and resilient Nation by serving as the primary location for the training of FEMA’s incident workforce.

I am pleased to recognize the staff of the Center for Domestic Preparedness for reaching this important milestone and look forward to witnessing its continued service to the Nation. I am especially pleased to recognize Superintendent Tony Russell for his years of service to the CDP.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the CDP on this exciting milestone in its history.

#### HONORING UNT POLICE CHIEF ED REYNOLDS

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary leadership and public service of Chief Ed Reynolds, as he retires as Police Chief of the University of North Texas (UNT) Police Department. Chief Reynolds has served as Police Chief since November 2015, and since joining the UNT Police Department in 1994 as an officer, he has accumulated almost three decades of faithful service to the 45,000 students, faculty and staff members on UNT’s Denton campus.

Chief Reynolds earned an associate degree in criminal justice from North Central Texas College and graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UNT. He attended the UNT police academy and graduated as valedictorian. He holds a master peace officer, firearms, and instructor license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

During his career at UNT, Chief Reynolds has served the department as a police officer, corporal, sergeant, lieutenant and deputy chief. In doing so, he has supervised every division within the department including operations, investigations, and administration.

He led the department’s successful effort to become nationally accredited in 2006 by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, a distinction that fewer than 7 percent of law enforcement agencies nationwide achieve. He received a UNT Presidential Award, the Bob Rogers Service and Community Engagement Award, in 2023, for outstanding service to the university and collaboration with the surrounding community. In 2018 he was also recognized nationally by Campus Safety Magazine as their Higher Education Director of the Year, honoring him for outstanding achievement and leadership in security, public safety and emergency management.

The UNT community is indebted to Chief Reynolds as he steps down from leading the 65 full-time employees and the department he has directed for almost 8 years. He has put the safety of others above his own and has honorably carried the burden of law enforcement leadership during one of the most challenging periods our country has witnessed. I am proud and grateful to have had someone with the character and servant heart of Chief Reynolds serving my alma mater, and I wish him and his family the best in retirement.

#### HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF SELMA MAYOR GEORGE PATRICK EVANS

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a trailblazing public servant and educator, former Selma Mayor George Patrick Evans,

who passed away at the age of 78 on May 15, 2023.

A native of Selma, Mayor Evans was a proud product of the Selma City School System. He began his higher education at St. Mary’s College in Dodge City, KS, earning his Bachelor of Arts in speech and physical therapy in 1962. Shortly after graduation he returned to Selma, where his passion for education led him to teach at Tipton High School in Dallas County. He continued his education while teaching, receiving a Master of Education in Educational Administration from Livingston State University and an Educational Specialist Certification in Educational Administration from Troy State University.

Dedicating over 40 years to the Dallas County School System, Mayor Evans held many roles, including Principal, Assistant Principal, Coach, and Right to Read Coordinator. Transitioning from the classroom into upper management, he served as the Dallas County Board of Education Federal Program Coordinator for 9 years and served as Superintendent for 5 years. Mayor Evans’ impactful career as an educator led him to break barriers as the first African American Superintendent of Dallas County public schools and Chief Academic Officer of the Alabama State Department of Education.

Bringing the same passion and tenacity into his career in electoral politics, Mayor Evans blazed trails in the Selma City Council, becoming its first African American City Council President. In his words, “good things kept happening at that time,” making history as the second African American Mayor in the City of Selma’s 192-year history. As Mayor for two terms, he showed his skill as a public servant leading the Queen City through the recession of 2008, a 12-percent municipal salary cut, and boldly addressing the lingering impact of segregation within Selma’s communities. His foresight propelled Selma forward, implementing the City’s optic fiber network and “butterfly park” to allow tourists an unobstructed view of the Alabama River and the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge.

As a trusted leader in the Selma community, Mayor Evans served on the board of numerous organizations, including a member of the Executive Committee of the Alabama League of Municipalities, Chairman of the Alabama Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, Wells-Fargo, then Wachovia Bank Board of Directors and AMFund Board of Directors. A man of faith he worshiped at the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Selma, and served as an Elder and Clerk of Session. His additional civic affiliations include the Selma Exchange Club, Twelve High Club, Chesterfield Club, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Mayor Evans was known for his love of basketball and received numerous awards for his contribution to expanding the sport in Alabama. From 1979 to 2010, he served as the men’s basketball official and officiating coordinator for the Southwestern Athletic Conference, leading him to an induction into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame. He served on the AHSAA Bryant-Jordan Student Athletic Program Scholarship Committee and the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Mayor Evans is survived by his beloved wife, fellow educator, and nurse Jeannie Evans; sons, Patrick, Duane, and Byron; and

grandchildren, Erin, Pailee, Pilar, Eden, Paxson George, Patrick Jr., Kelly, and Tremaine.

On a personal note, as a native of Selma, I have known Mayor Evans all my life and even worked as the family babysitter during my youth. Mayor Evans has always been a man of great character and honor, whose love of God, family, and community has been his guiding principle. From being Dallas County's first Black school board superintendent to his 16 years of public service as President of the Selma City Council and then as Mayor, Evans led by example through his hard work, perseverance, grit, and kindness.

During his tenure as Mayor, he partnered with my office to bring vital federal resources home to Selma and Dallas County. From his demonstrated efforts to revitalize downtown Selma to his dedicated commitment to making our community stronger and safer, Mayor Evans fought hard to improve the lives of the people he served. His public service has left an indelible imprint on Selma, and he will be missed. Let us find comfort in knowing his incredible legacy will live on in the many people he touched. May he rest in peace and power.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of an exceptional public servant, Selma's former Mayor, George Patrick Evans, for his decades of service to the City of Selma, Dallas County, and the entire State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN A. THOMAS, THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Sergeant Major John A. Thomas. Sergeant Major Thomas began his career in 1985 after completing both his basic and individual trainings. Over a 38-year career, Sergeant Major Thomas has served this great Nation to ensure the safety of American citizens and to provide support for military personnel.

Sergeant Major Thomas's decorated career includes being deployed to Egypt in support of the Multi-national Forces and Observers, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and his emergency rapid response participation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ida. Sergeant Major Thomas has received accolades for his service in overseas campaigns fighting terrorism and for his decisive actions in the line of duty.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I thank Sergeant Major John A. Thomas for his service to our country.

HONORING FRANCIS XAVIER BELLOTTI OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AND WITH GRATITUDE FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francis Xavier Bellotti, in recognition of his 100th birthday and with the deepest appreciation for his courageous service to our Nation during World War II and his many contributions to Massachusetts' legal and political communities.

Born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Bellotti graduated from The English High School in 1942 before enlisting in the United States Navy's elite Scouts and Raiders—the Navy's first special warfare unit and a progenitor of today's Navy SEALs. Mr. Bellotti led his squad valiantly across multiple theaters in World War II and was decorated for his service in Europe and the Pacific.

Mr. Bellotti's earned his bachelor's degree from Tufts University in 1947 and graduated from Boston College Law School in 1952. He quickly became a prominent and respected attorney, practicing at every level of the state and federal judicial system.

Mr. Bellotti's career in public service began on January 3, 1963, when he became the 61st Lieutenant Governor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He then served three terms as Massachusetts' Attorney General, from 1975 to 1987, during which time he transformed the Office of the Attorney General, fostering a culture of transparency, professionalism, and nonpartisanship. In 1981, the National Association of Attorneys General unanimously voted Mr. Bellotti the most outstanding attorney general in the country.

After his departure from elective office, Mr. Bellotti returned to the law, where he has remained a steadfast advocate for justice and democracy.

In his personal life, Mr. Bellotti is a proud father of 12 children and more than twice as many grandchildren. His beloved wife, Margarita "Maggie" Bellotti, passed away on December 26, 2022. She is remembered as the "driving force" in Mr. Bellotti's life and a powerful victim advocate in her own right.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Xavier Bellotti's legacy is clearly one of service—to country, community, and principle. Over the years, Mr. Bellotti has received countless accolades for his good work. In 2011, Boston College Law School aptly named its public service loan repayment

assistance and forgiveness program in his honor. In 2012, the District Court of East Norfolk—where Mr. Bellotti first practiced—was renamed the Francis X. Bellotti Courthouse. And, in 2017, the United States Navy awarded Mr. Bellotti a trident badge plaque for his leadership as a member of the Scouts and Raiders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to join Mr. Bellotti's family and friends in recognizing his 100th birthday and to thank him for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2023, I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Rollcall No. 228 (H.R. 1076) and YES on Rollcall No. 229 (H.R. 1156).

### HONORING JAIME CARRANZA

#### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and service of Jaime Carranza, a senior warehouseman for the Anaheim Union High School District who was recently recognized as one of nine California Classified Employee of the Year honorees.

For the past five years, Jaime has been an integral part of the Anaheim Union High School District. Students and faculty alike know that Jaime goes above and beyond to ensure that all students are supported in their education and in their lives. As senior warehouseman for Food Services, Jaime ensures that all of the Anaheim Union High Schools are able to provide kids with healthy meals, safe campuses and transportation, and a supportive infrastructure during difficulties and unexpected changes. Known for his friendliness, expertise, and willingness to assist others, Jaime is the first person his colleagues call when they need help.

For his work and dedication to our community, Jaime won the award for top classified employee in the Food and Nutrition Services category. He was selected for this honor from a state-wide pool of 151 nominees. He was distinguished by his exemplary work performance, involvement in his campus and the Anaheim community, and the support of his colleagues.

I thank Jaime for his service to Anaheim's students.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 41 public bills, H.R. 3555–3595; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 47; and H. Res. 430–436, were introduced. **Pages H2498–H2500**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H2502–04**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1156, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–72);

H.R. 662, to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–73);

H.R. 1713, to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–74, Part 1);

H.R. 1713, to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–74, Part 2);

H.R. 1076, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–75, Part 1); and

H. Res. 429, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 467) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; providing

for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards”; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 45) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans” (H. Rept. 118–76).

**Page H2498**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Moore (AL) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2465**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2467**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H2467**

**Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Representative Courtney. **Page H2468**

**Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Representative Davis (NC). **Page H2468**

**Health Information Technology Advisory Committee—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Dr. Jim Jirjis of Nashville, Tennessee. **Page H2468**

**Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Representative Ruppertsberger. **Pages H2468–69**

**Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State—Appointment:** Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following Member to the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Representative Quigley. **Page H2469**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2469**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

***Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act:*** H.R. 1076, amended, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 228; **Pages H2469–71, H2483**

***China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2023:*** H.R. 1156, amended, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 229; **Pages H2471–72, H2483–84**

***Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue for Relief Act:*** H.R. 366, to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2472–74**

***Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023:*** S. 777, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans; and **Pages H2479–81**

***NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023:*** Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 346, to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions. **Pages H2481–82**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:44 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Pages H2482–83**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

***VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023:*** H.R. 1669, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the high technology pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Pages H2474–79**

**Senate Referral:** S.J. Res. 18 was held at the desk. **Page H2468**

Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H2468.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2483 and H2483–84.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

**HALT FENTANYL ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS OF FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS**

***Committee on Rules:*** Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 467, the "HALT Fentanyl Act"; S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards"; and H.J. Res. 45, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans". The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 467, the "HALT Fentanyl Act", S.J. Res. 11, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle



Standards”, and H.J. Res. 45, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 467, the “HALT Fentanyl Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 11, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to commit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 45, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolu-

tion. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Griffith, Pallone, Johnson of Ohio, and Greene of Georgia.

## *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

*Committee on Agriculture*, Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology, hearing entitled “For the purpose of receiving testimony from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations*, Full Committee, markup on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies FY 2024 Appropriations Bill; the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch FY 2024 Appropriations Bill; and the report on the Interim Suballocation of the Budget Allocations for FY 2024, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Protecting Employees’ Rights: Ensuring Fair Elections at the NLRB”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Oversight and Reauthorization of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Growing the Domestic Energy Sector Supply Chain and Manufacturing Base: Are Federal Efforts Working?”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FHFA oversight: Protecting Homeowners and Taxpayers”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Bring Abducted Children Home”, 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, hearing entitled “Examining the Fiscal Year 24 State and Foreign Operations Budget Request for Europe”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, hearing entitled “A Security Sprint: Assessing the U.S.

Homeland's Vulnerabilities to Chinese Communist Party Aggression", 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, "The Biden Border Crisis: Part III", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing entitled "Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Proposal for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Power Marketing Administrations", 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 188, the "Proven Forest Management Act of 2022"; H.R. 934, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes; H.R. 1450, the "Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act"; H.R. 1726, the "Continued Rapid Ohio Death Response Act of 2023"; legislation on the FIRESHEDS Act; legislation on the Direct Hire to Fight Fires; legislation on the Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023; legislation on the Fire Department Repayment Act of 2023; and legislation on the Forest Service Flexible Housing Partnerships Act of 2023, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets Part I: Self-Interest or Health Care?", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1651, the "Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act"; H.R. 1644, the "7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act"; H.R. 1541, the "Small Business Workforce Pipeline Act of 2023"; H.R. 1730, the "Supporting Small Businesses and Career and Technical Education Act of 2023"; H.R. 1606, the "Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023"; and H.R. 3511, the "Service-Disabled Veteran

Opportunities in Small Business Act", 9:45 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3399, the "Soo Locks Security and Economic Reporting Act of 2023"; H.R. 1836, the "Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act of 2023"; H.R. 3395, the "U.S. Supply Chain Security Review Act of 2023"; H.R. 886, the "Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act"; H.R. 2367, the "Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act"; H.R. 3013, the "Licensing Individual Commercial Exam-takers Now Safely and Efficiently Act of 2023"; H.R. 3318, to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an axle weight tolerance for certain commercial motor vehicles transporting dry bulk goods, and for other purposes; H.R. 3408, the "DRIVE Safe Integrity Act"; H.R. 3316, to amend titles 46 and 49, United States Code, to streamline the environmental review process for major projects, and for other purposes; H.R. 3365, the "Supply Chain Improvement Act"; H.R. 1500, the "Intelligent Transportation Integration Act"; H.R. 915, the "Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard Act"; H.R. 3317, the "Rolling Stock Protection Act"; H.R. 3372, to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a safety data collection program for certain 6-axle vehicles, and for other purposes; H.R. 2948, the "Carrying Automobiles Responsibly and Safely Act"; H.R. 3447, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize a hydrogen powered vehicle to exceed certain weight limits on the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes; H.R. 1796, the "Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2023"; and H. Con. Res. 43, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "COVID-19 Supplemental Funding: Did It Protect and Improve Veteran Care?", 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

12 noon, Tuesday, May 23

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

12 noon, Tuesday, May 23

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of S.J. Res. 11—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards” (Subject to a Rule).

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